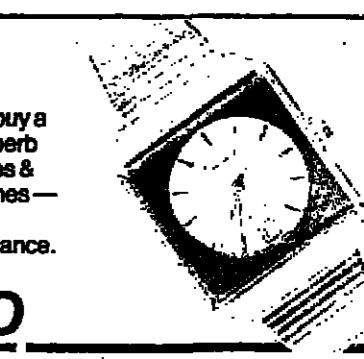




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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1987 JAMADI AL AWWAL 2, 1408 AH

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ARAB TIMES

Small Filipino boy saved miraculously Ferry disaster death toll goes beyond 2,000

MANILA, Dec 22, (Reuters): Fishermen dragged a five-year-old boy from Philippine waters today two days after a ferry carrying him and more than 2,000 others sank in the world's worst peacetime shipping disaster, officials said.

The boy, found clinging to a piece of wood off the coast of the central island of Mindoro, brought to 27 the number of survivors from Sunday night's accident.

Almost all aboard were feared dead after the Dona Paz ferry and a tanker collided, burst into flames and sank in shark-infested waters.

Chance

"It's a miracle, it's beyond imagination that he survived. Only God knows how," said Antonio Babajes of the Manila rescue coordination centre. He said rescuers had confirmed a report from the local governor's office that the boy had been found.

A radio station run by Governor Jaime Valencia in the province of Mindoro Oriental, just over 100 miles (160 km) south of the capital, said the child was found in serious condition

and had a "50-50" chance of surviving.

On hearing news of the boy's rescue, a nurse in a Manila hospital, Anacoretta Nicolas, said: "That's the biggest Christmas gift he has ever received."

More than 2,000 people, including hundreds of children, may have died when the Dona Paz, packed with poor Filipinos travelling to Manila for Christmas, sank late on Sunday night after a collision with a small tanker.

The Manila rescue coordinating centre said hundreds of victims had probably been trapped in the Dona Paz.

Others were incinerated when spilled oil from the tanker Victor caught fire and turned the sea into an inferno, survivors said.

Search

Hundreds of ferries, large and small, ply the waters in and around the more than 7,000 islands of the Philippines, and are the main form of inter-island transport.

"I think there were 1,000 children aboard," said Almario Balanay, a survivor.

The Philippines Coast Guard in Batangas, south of Manila, said search parties had found 21

bodies in the tropical shores and waters off the east coast of Mindoro island.

A US naval aircraft spotted debris and an oil spillage from the disaster about 12 miles (20 km) off shore.

Officials had scaled down the search in the hours before the boy was found. Reuter journalists who flew over the area said rescuers had been hampered by rain.

In the tiny fishing village of Herrera on Mindoro's eastern coast, residents pulled the bodies of five women, a baby and a man from the sea.

Recalling the 16 hours the Dona Paz spent at sea before disaster struck, Sofronio Sabuko, a survivor said:

quiet and I knew they had all drowned."

In Manila, President Corazon Aquino called the disaster "a terrible tragedy" and said she would visit survivors in hospital after attending a special memorial mass tomorrow.

Fifteen hundred people had bought tickets for the voyage. People who watched the ship depart from the south-eastern Philippines said hundreds of ticketless passengers boarded at the last moment.

US officials said today that the Philippine authorities waited almost eight hours to ask locally-based US military rescue experts for help following the ferry disaster.

Delayed

The time lapse appeared to be one of a series of communication breakdowns which delayed rescue teams.

Manila officials said they learned of the disaster at 7:00am on Monday morning — nine hours after the disaster occurred just 110 miles to the south-east.

US naval captain Mary Ellen Jadick said it was not until 2:40pm that the US base's rescue and recovery squadron was asked for help.

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World Court to settle Bahrain-Qatar dispute

RIYADH, Dec 22, (Agencies): Saudi Arabia will sponsor a joint bid by Bahrain and Qatar to submit their territorial dispute to arbitration at the International Court of Justice, the official Saudi Press Agency reported yesterday.

The two neighbouring Gulf powers have been at loggerheads for about two decades, with each claiming the islands of Huwar as an integral part of its territory.

The chain of tiny islands abutting the Qatar peninsula is said to be potentially rich in oil and gas.

Freezing

The dispute exploded in April last year, when Qatar sent its helicopter gunships raiding

Bahrain's 10,000-square-metre Fush Al-Dibat reef. The reef was being reclaimed on behalf of Bahrain by the Dutch construction company Ballast Nedam to set up a radar station.

The Qataris landed troops on the reef, seized it and deployed heavy weaponry after detaining 30 British, Dutch, Filipino and Thai engineers and workers.

Summit

Saudi Defence Minister Prince Sultan visited the two countries and managed to dispel the spectre of war, getting them to agree on freezing the dispute and submit it to international arbitration if need be.

Uprising in occupied areas hailed

Osaimi reiterates need to convene peace conference

KUWAIT reiterates its call for the need to convene the international peace conference on the Middle East, a Kuwaiti daily quoted Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saoud Al Osaimi as saying yesterday.

The minister told the paper that the Palestinians' uprising in the occupied territories proved that any solution which does not achieve the Palestinian goals and their right to self determination to establish an independent state on the occupied territories will be "useless."

Hailing the struggle and sacrifice of the Palestinians in their uprising, Osaimi affirmed that such uprisings embarrassed the Israeli suppressing actions and racism.

The upheaval asserted that there is only one way for peace, and that is the international peace conference with the attendance of all UN Security Council

Qatar later released the detainees and vacated the reef, but the dispute remained unresolved.

Qatar and Bahrain are members of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

GCC foreign ministers were meeting in Riyadh on Monday in preparation for the summit. Arab diplomatic sources said the foreign ministers did not wish to include the Bahrain-Qatar territorial dispute on the summit agenda, hence the Saudi decision to take it to the Hague.

Bahrain and Qatar agreed the court's ruling would be final and binding, a statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency said.

HH the Amir in talks with Tareq Aziz (left).

Amir receives Saddam's message

IRAQI Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, Tareq Aziz left yesterday for Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, after a brief visit to Kuwait during which he delivered a message to HH the Amir of Kuwait from the President of Iraq Saddam Hussein.

In Riyadh, Aziz will deliver a similar message from Saddam to King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia.

During his short stay here Aziz conferred with the State Minister for Foreign Affairs Saoud Al Osaimi on the Iraq-Iran war and the situation in the Arab Gulf region in light of developments in the Arab and international platforms, an official source at the foreign ministry told Kuna.

The meeting, which was attended by the Foreign Ministry's Undersecretary Sulaiman Majed

Al Shaheen and Iraq's Ambassador to Kuwait Asim Yousef, also tackled current efforts at the UN Security Council to implement the council's 598 resolution on the Iraq-Iran war.

Bahrain Meanwhile, an Iraqi envoy delivered a message to the Amir of Bahrain, Sheikh Issa Bin Sultan Al Khalifa, on the latest developments in the Gulf war, the Gulf News Agency said.

The visit of Saadon Shaker, member of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command, came amid reports of renewed ground fighting in the seven-year-long Gulf war between Iran and Iraq.

Shaker's visit to Bahrain followed one last Saturday by an Iranian envoy to the Gulf island to deliver a message about the war to the Amir from Iranian President Ali Khamenei.

2,400 students to be admitted

DR Ghazi Al Enizi, the Dean of Registration and Admissions at Kuwait's Public Authority for Training and Applied Education, said that the authority's faculties and training centres will admit about 2,400 students for the second session to begin next month. He added that the Faculty of Health Sciences had allowed 70 expatriate female students who had scored more than 80 per cent on the Secondary School Certificate examination to be admitted for nurses training.

Registration will continue until December 29 for students who are registered at Kuwait University and want to transfer to the authority.

He added that the names of students who had been accepted by the authority will be announced during the first half of January, 1988.

Students urged to support IICA

ABDUL MOHSEN Al Saad, the Assistant Undersecretary for Information and Student Affairs of Kuwait's Education Ministry, in a circular to public schools, encouraged students to support the International Islamic Charity Authority (IICA) in their support of needy Muslims around the world. He emphasized that this was the religious and humanitarian duty of Muslims, adding that such work helped to spread the Islamic culture and values.

He said that a committee of teachers of Islamic education in each school should be set up to encourage students to contribute to the authority and that special boxes would be distributed to collect the donations. It was added that 100 fils would be deducted from school canteen profits for each school student to be used for charity.

Al Sidairi said the Saudi Red Crescent had also donated large quantities of medicines, supplies and tents for the displaced citizens of Kurumuk area.

The ambassador was quoted by Suna as saying that Saudi

reject a peaceful settlement to the problem.

John Garang

is head of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) which has been fighting the government since 1983. The movement aims at establishing a secular system in the country.

He refuted Garang's claims that his movement works for the liberation of Sudan, accusing the rebellion in the South of acting as a stumbling block in the face of the country's progress.

Moving to the Arab interior ministers meeting, Ahmed said that the ministers looked into the problem of narcotics and its effect on youth and ways to contain this epidemic.

He added that the conferees also emphasized the necessity of identifying international terrorism, noting that Palestinians who fight to restore their land are unjustly described as terrorists.

Regarding his country's position toward the Gulf war, he said that Sudan is a main part of the Arab nation, condemning the continuation of the hostilities.

Numeiri blamed for Sudan's problems

SUDANESE Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Ahmed Sayed Al Hussein yesterday blamed the regime of the deposed president Gaafar Numeiri for the problems Sudan is facing at the present.

He said, in an interview with Kuna, that the current government in Sudan has inherited a 16-year rule which gave no attention to security of citizens and strived only to maintain power by oppressing the people.

Ahmed noted that in addition to escalating corruption and the heavy debts the new regime has to put up with the rebellion in the South led by John Garang which created problems like hunger and refugees.

Stumbling block

The Sudanese minister affirmed that despite these problems, the government was able to establish sound security bodies.

On Khartoum's refusal of Garang's solutions to the South dilemma, he stressed that the Sudanese government is a democratic one and will not

Saudis airlift relief supplies to Sudan

Arabia has agreed to extend to Sudan \$45 million grant worth of petroleum products bringing to \$90 million the Saudi assistance to Sudan of oil supplies this year.

He said the Sudanese-Saudi cooperation was deeply rooted due to the common fate and common destiny. He said the Saudi cooperation with Sudan was demonstrated by King Fahd who recently confirmed to a Sudanese delegation the kingdom's commitment to provide Sudan with emergency assistance to face the "critical circumstances" facing Sudan following the recent event in Kurumuk.

Al Sidairi said the Saudi Fund for Economic Development has pledged to finance a number of projects in Sudan in the field of agriculture, road construction and communications against one billion Saudi riyals.



Eleven employees from nine travel agencies in Kuwait took part in a passenger tariff and ticketing course arranged by Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) manager in Kuwait, Ashraf Kamal Haider. The chief instructor in marketing at the PIA training centre, Karachi, Khawaja Shauquuddin, conducted the course. Picture shows the students and PIA staff. (Photo by Javed Basra)

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KUWAIT ... GULF

Sheikh Saad visits air base

HH the Crown Prince and Premier, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, yesterday visited the Ali Al Salem Air Base, during which he attended the weapons exhibition sponsored by the military delegation which accompanied Egyptian Deputy Premier and Defence Minister Field Marshal Abdel Halim Abu Ghazala on his recent visit to the country.

The Crown Prince and Premier was accompanied by Ministers of Information, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Electricity and Water, and Industry and Commerce.

Minister of Defence Sheikh Salem Al Sabah and other ranking officers greeted Sheikh Saad upon arrival at the base.

After inspecting the guard of honour Sheikh Saad toured the various pavilions of the exhibition and got acquainted with weapons and military equipment on display which were either upgraded or produced in Egypt.

Sheikh Saad also listened to explanations by Egyptian officers and technicians on the effectiveness, usages and the prolonged experiments these weapons underwent.

The Crown Prince expressed satisfaction over the advanced level of the weapons and also thanked those working at the exhibition.

The exhibition falls within the framework of bilateral cooperation and exchanging of military expertise between the two countries.

Kennedy to visit Kuwait

BAHRAIN, Dec 22, (Reuter): US Democratic Senator Edward Kennedy will visit two US warships in the Gulf as part of a fact finding mission over the Christmas holiday, an aide to the Senator said today.

Kennedy, who arrived in Bahrain yesterday, will spend five days in the region meeting US military personnel and diplomats and talking with local officials.

Kennedy is due to visit Oman and Kuwait during the trip. The ships he will visit are the aircraft carrier Midway stationed in the Arabian Sea and the USS Okinawa, a helicopter carrier now in the Gulf.

UAE-iran seek to boost ties

DUBAI, Dec 22, (Kuna): Iran and the United Arab Emirates have discussed avenues of promoting bilateral cooperation in the economic and agricultural sectors.

The issue was brought up for discussion by the visiting member of the Iranian shura (consultative) Council Ghulam Hossini Nadi in a meeting with UAE Finance and Industry Minister Hamdan Bin Rashed.

The meeting was attended by the Iranian ambassador to the UAE Mustafa Fomini Hairi.

Donation for flood victims

ZAKAT House continues to collect donations and relief items for flood victims in Bangladesh, adding to the reported KD2,379 received from Kuwait's Public Authority for Civil Information. A source at Zakat House said this sum represented donations made by employees at the authority.

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4700 Rockside Rd. # 545
Cleveland, Ohio 44131 USA
OR CALL
(216) 642-3400



Sheikh Saad is seen talking with Sheikh Salem (above) and examining Egyptian weapons and equipment.



Abdullah arrives in Jordan

AMMAN, Dec 22, (Reuter): Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah arrived in Jordan today on the last stop of a four-nation tour aimed at improving Arab unity.

Witnesses said Jordan's Prince Hassan was at the airport to greet Prince Abdullah on his arrival from Cairo. The Saudi Prince also visited Iraq and Syria as part of efforts to improve ties between the long-time foes.

King Hussein, now on an official visit to Moscow, said Iraq and Syria had reconciled at the summit but little solid progress towards better ties has emerged since.

Solidarity

Prince Abdullah's visit to Jordan, also involved in efforts to achieve Arab unity, comes four days ahead of a summit of the six-member Gulf Cooperation

Council expected to focus on the Iran-Iraq war.

In Cairo, Prince Abdullah, met President Hosni Mubarak today for talks which Arab diplomats said would focus on the Gulf war and efforts to foster Arab relations.

The prince met Mubarak privately on Monday shortly after arriving from Damascus where he had talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

Saudi and Egyptian officials said no comment after his initial discussion with Mubarak which extended over a working dinner.

He has also visited Iraq, King Hussein of Jordan was chairman of last month's Arab summit conference which endorsed a plan to reconcile Iraq and Syria.

Crown Prince Abdullah, setting the tone of his tour in an arrival statement, underscored the importance of Arab solidarity. "Arab solidarity is the mainstay of our policy and a united Arab nation could achieve our noble objectives," he said.

Probing

Arab diplomats in Cairo said the prince was probing the possibility of patching up Arab differences during his tour.

Foremost among these, they said, were efforts to heal a 20-year-old ideological and political rift between Iraq and Syria, Iran's leading Arab ally in the Gulf war.

The prince, the first senior Saudi official to visit Egypt since the restoration of relations between the two countries last month, was also expected to discuss the promotion of bilateral relations.



Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah meets Egyptian President Mubarak during his one-day official visit to Egypt. (Reuter radiophoto)

WHO experts praise Oman

MUSCAT, Dec 22, (Kuna): Two experts from the World Health Organisation have praised the accelerated progress witnessed by the Sultanate in the various health fields, and the role played by the Omani Ministry of Health in the preventive medicine domains against the various diseases, including the contagious ones.

They termed as "satisfactory" the studies conducted by the Ministry of Health on the epidemic condition of cerebrospinal meningitis.

The results of the analyses and tests conducted on numerous samples taken from citizens of different ages all over the sultanate, the two WHO experts stressed, indicated that the microbe has abated and is no more epidemic. No more precautions nor emergency procedures are required following the action adopted by the Ministry of Health, they added.

The two experts Dr Mohamed Helmi Wahdan, director and head of the preventive medicine department at WHO, and Dr Alyya Abdul Gawad Abbas, Egyptian professor and head of the micro-biology department and the WHO advisor, have recently paid a few weeks-long visit to the sultanate where they followed up the studies conducted by the Ministry of Health which started in September on the epidemic condition of cerebrospinal meningitis.

Security cooperation

EGYPT'S Interior Minister Major General Zaki Badr was quoted here yesterday as saying that his country is ready to step up security cooperation with Kuwait and to exchange expertise in this sphere.

In an interview with a Kuwaiti newspaper, Badr noted that Egypt's security cooperation with Kuwait in particular and with Arab countries in general was never stopped during severance of relations between Egypt and the Arab states.

Kuwait received from and despatched to Cairo a number of security delegations, many of them for training purposes, he said, adding that Arab security is an indivisible issue.

Over Egypt's plans to support cooperation with Kuwait in the security field, the Egyptian official stressed that Cairo is ready to do so with Kuwait, the Gulf states and other Arab countries the way they like, whether through bilateral agreements or arranging certain protocols for exchange of expertise and visits.

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The badminton tournament will be held on Dec 23 and 24, basketball Dec 26 to 28, volleyball Dec 29 to 31, chess Jan 7, and table tennis Jan 26.

In addition to individual prizes, rolling shields will be awarded to the winning teams.

Inter-school tournament

THE Indian School (senior) in Kuwait is holding an inter-school tournament in badminton, table tennis, chess, basketball and volleyball to mark the 40th anniversary of India's independence.

Girls and boys from the New Indian School, Carmel School, Indian School (Senior), Indian School (Junior) and Indian School (Mangaf) will participate.

The badminton tournament will be held on Dec 23 and 24, basketball Dec 26 to 28, volleyball Dec 29 to 31, chess Jan 7, and table tennis Jan 26.

In addition to individual prizes, rolling shields will be awarded to the winning teams.

Saber remains as president

TUNIS, Dec 22, (Kuna): Participants in the 9th session of the Arab League educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation decided in a closed session last night that Dr Mohieddin Saber remain president of the organisation for one more year.

Following the one-year term, an extraordinary meeting for the organisation's general conference will be held to elect a new president.

Sub-committees formed by the general session concluded their meetings last night and are expected to prepare their reports for deliberations today.

Hard labour for smuggling

KUWAIT'S Criminal Court sentenced a Filipino to four years hard labour to be followed by deportation after being convicted of smuggling counterfeit banknotes into the country.

According to testimony given in court, six \$100 banknotes were found in the defendant's room at Khiran Resort, where the defendant was employed, while resort security men were looking for money which was suspected stolen by the defendant.

The defendant admitted to having brought the forged banknotes from Saudi Arabia where he had been previously employed.

Fahd receives letter from Chirac

RIYADH, Dec 22, (Kuna): King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia, today received letters from French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac and President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, state-run radio Riyadh reported.

The letters were delivered by ambassadors of France and the UAE in separate audiences with the monarch, the radio said without elaboration.

Somali team tours Kuna

The minister thanked Barges for the meeting and underlined that Kuna is well known in Somalia and "we benefit a lot from its news."

He noted that Somali News Agency has limited capabilities and hoped for more cooperation between the two agencies.

Training

The director-general of the Somali News Agency, for his part, expressed pleasure for meeting with Kuna officials and reiterated that "the most correct, balanced and accurate news are received in his country from Radio Kuwait and Kuna."

He said that the delegation's current tour of Arab countries aims at discussing whatever equipments their news agencies can supply to Somali News Agency.

Referring to the minister's remarks that the Somali cadres lack proper training, Barges expressed readiness to train them in editing news, technical affairs, photography and documentation and in research fields and promised to provide equipment and assistance to the Somali Agency.

The chairman highlighted that the agency depends on team work and objectivity which is why it is popular.

The minister is seen at the CID laboratory.

Evaluation bureau studying work conditions

MOHAMMAD Al Rifai, the head of the Manpower Evaluation Bureau of Kuwait's Communications Ministry, said that the bureau studies the work conditions of the ministry to evaluate its efficiency and then plans appropriate proposals based on their observations.

Al Rifai explained that according to statistics there is a gap between the use of up-to-date equipment and production rates in various fields. He said that this gap is attributed to the lack of advanced planning of technical and administrative operations.

He added that the bureau had been successful with a number of departments and that a questionnaire had been prepared by them which attempted to determine

570 bottles of whisky seized

DETECTIVES of Jabra Governorate seized 570 bottles of whisky and 1,139 unidentified pills from a car at Al Layah area near the sixth bridge road.

They arrested three men on a charge of trying to smuggle the contraband into the country.

UK reiterates support to Kuwait

(Continued from Page 1)

situation getting worse," he added.

Turning to the question of a UN arms embargo against Iran he said, such a embargo can be effective even if it is not 100 per cent efficient.

"There will always be black markets and so on, but it would show Iran that the world wants an end to the war and that Iran must take UN resolution 598 seriously," he added.

Elaborating on Britain's role in the Gulf, Mellor pointed out that the Armilla Patrol had accompanied over 50 ships every month and more than 17 million tons of shipping during the past month alone.

He said that Kuwait has expressed their warm recognition of Britain's role.

Turning to the present uprising in the occupied territories Mellor said that the British government has "called upon the Israeli occupying forces to act in a restrained and humane manner. There must be an end to harsh Israeli crowd control methods."

These events tragically demonstrate that the present situation in the occupied territories cannot continue. The Israelis cannot go on with scenes

Cleaning services discussed

KUWAIT'S Municipal Affairs Committee at its recent meeting, chaired by the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Abdul Rahman Khalid Al Ghunaim, discussed the need for regular cleaning services at the new fruit and vegetable market as well as the relocation of the market's security guards' quarters to the new area. It was also suggested that insecticides be used regularly at the market to prevent flies and other insects.

The committee also discussed the need to transfer cargo entering the country at border checkpoints to Kuwaiti trucks in an attempt to stop all smuggling attempts. It was also emphasised that other agencies need to be involved in curbing the smuggling of hallucinogenic drugs into the country since it appeared to be more than the police could control.

The guests also toured Kuna's various departments following the meeting.

The Somali minister and his accompanying delegation left later, winding up a three-day official visit to the country.

The minister, in a pre-departure statement to Kuna, expressed his satisfaction over the outcome of his talks with Kuwaiti officials and his thanks for the support extended by Kuwait to his country.

He said that his talk here touched on a number of issues, particularly in the information field.

The Somali minister was seen off by Information Minister Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed, Information Under-secretary Abdul Aziz Jaafar and other ministry officials.

During his visit to the traffic department, the guest was briefed on the tasks of the various divisions of the body by director-general of the department Brigadier Fouad Musaad Al Saleh and other department heads.

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He added that he was personally sympathetic to the question of medical aid to the occupied territories.

Following press reports and parliamentary questions in Britain, Mellor denied that Britain has got an arms sales office in Tehran but conceded that there is an office there which is authorised to deal with claims linked to the subsidies and contracts concluded in the time when the Shah was in power.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Free Atelier

Over 90 paintings by Palestinian artist Mohammad Bou-shnag are on show at the Free Atelier Gallery, Arabian Gulf St. The show has been organised by the Kuwait Society for Formative Arts. Open daily from 8.30 am to 12 noon and 4 to 7 pm, until Dec 22.

Bahrain Modern Art Show

70 modern art paintings by Bahraini artists are on show at the Dahiya Abdullah Al Salem Gallery. Open daily from 9 am to 12 noon and 4 to 8 pm, until Dec 28.

FILMS

Indian Film Festival

Indian film Paroma, directed by Aparna Sen and featuring Raakhee in the title role, will be shown at 7.30 pm in the auditorium of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Children are not admitted. For further details contact Cine Club, nr. Indian Embassy, Bneid Al Qar.

British Council

Two children's films -- The Christmas Raccoon and Racoon on Ice (duration: 50 minutes) will be shown tonight at 6 pm at the British Council, Mansouriya. Admission free but reservations must be made. Tel: 2533204; 2533227.

SOCIAL

Malayalee Drama

Vishwabharati Theatre, Abbasiya, will present a Malayalee Drama, written by Thomas Perumpilly, on Dec. 25, at the Indian Embassy auditorium.

ASK Alumni Dinner

Friends and graduates of the American School, Kuwait, will hold an alumni dinner at Regency Palace Hotel on Jan. 3. The Arabic buffet will begin at 8 pm. For details phone Mrs Suzy Jones - 5314568.

ACT

Auditions for ACT's next production, "An Evening of Absurdity," will be held on Dec. 28 (Monday) and Dec. 29 (Wednesday) from 7.30 pm to 10 pm. Call 1362032; 5725071.

SPORTS

Kuwait Nomads

Rugby Club

Thursday: Youths XV vs Veterans XV at Fiftas; kick-off: 3.30 pm. All players must report by 3.15 pm.

All entries for the What's On column must be handed over personally to Events Section, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

CINEMA

Al Andalus

Born in America
Starring: Mike Norris, Steve Durham

Al Sahniya

Ruthless People
Starring: Danny DeVito

Al Hamra

Li Adam: Kifayah Al Adalah (Arabic)
Starring: Naja Fathi, Yusra, Salma Saadani

Drive-In

Jara Al Wuhoosh (Arabic)
Starring: Noor Al Sharif, Noora, Hussein Fahmi, Mahmoud Abdul Aziz

Al Firdous

Tarana (Hindi)
Starring: Dilip Kumar, Madhubala

Fahaseef Open-Air

Khooni Mahal (Hindi)
Al-Fahaseef

Al-Amaliya 42 (Arabic)

Al-Jahra
Choose Me

Granade

Al-Fatnat Al-Maqalat (Arabic)

Salahibkhana

Ithirayum Kalam (Malayalam)

Al-Jeeb

Strike of Tortured Angels

Ahmadi Drive-In

La'anat Al Maal (Arabic)

Starring: Hatem Zulfikar, Imaan, Yusuf Shaban

PRAYERS

Fajr	5.15 am
Zahr	11.47
Aar	2.37 pm
Maghreb	4.56
Isha	6.18

VIDEO CORNER

By Brian Hollis

Sure way to fame



Edward Asner plays an escaped convict masquerading as Santa Claus in The Christmas Star.



Burt Lancaster (left) and Alain Delon star in The Leopard.



Candice Bergen in Mayflower Madam.



A still from A Hobo's Christmas.



Members of the Chaine de Rotisseurs' Kuwait Chapter recently held their seasonal luncheon in Al Mubarakia Restaurant at Measliyah Beach Hotel. Pictured are some of the guests.

عاجلاً من الأذى

ARAB TIMES, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1987

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 2.15 Holy Quran
- 2.30 World News via Satellite
- 3.30 Hakim Al Aqaz: cartoons
- 4.00 News Summary
- 4.05 World News via Satellite
- 4.15 La Ilaha Illallah: historic serial, featuring Yusuf Shabaan, Raghdha, Hala Fakhher
- 5.30 Zahoor Min Noor
- 6.00 Soora Min Al Tabbiya: cultural programme
- 7.00 News Summary
- 7.05 With Students
- 7.45 Trading local show
- 8.15 Good Evening and Local News
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.50 Ghadan Tidaq Al Ajras: daily serial, starring Salma Saadani, Hina Tharwat, Mohammad Al Arabi.

10.50 Ayyam Alabal: presented by Marwan Sawaf and featuring Saadoun Jaber, Ahmad Ghaneim, Ronzi, Amal Arafah, Marwan Adam.

12.10 News Summary

12.15 World News via Satellite

1.00 Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 Mickey and Donald: cartoons
- 6.30 Charles in Charge: "Another Saturday Night." Charles redefines his friendship with his girlfriend.
- 7.00 Chronicle: "The Gold of Thracian." Documentary
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.40 The Wizard: "Never

Give Up." Drug pushers take over an Indian village.

9.30 The World We Live In: "Animal War, Animal Peace."

10.00 Sledge Hammer: "Haven't Gun Will Travel." A group of burglars plan to steal Hammer's gun.

10.30 Falcon Crest: "The Cradle Will Fall." Richard Channing plans a rescue operation to free his kidnapped infant son: Chase is taken prisoner in Oklahoma and Lance seeks his father's help to solve his marriage problems.

12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

FM Services

- 08.00-08.30 Easy Listening
- 08.30-08.40 News
- 08.40-10.00 Easy Listening
- 10.00-13.00 Songs and Music
- 13.00-13.30 Easy Listening
- 13.30-13.40 News
- 13.40-14.00 Easy Listening
- 14.00-16.00 Classical Music
- 16.00-17.00 Easy Listening
- 17.00-18.00 French Hour
- 18.00-19.00 Pop
- 19.00-20.00 Be Our Guest
- 20.00-21.30 Pops
- 21.30-21.45 News
- 21.45-22.00 Pops
- 22.00-23.00 Famous classical works
- 23.00-24.00 Easy listening
- 24.00-02.00 Instrumental listening

BBC World Services

- 0000 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Radio Newswise
- 30 Omnibus
- 0100 News Summary followed by Outlook
- 30 Report on Religion
- 45 Country Style
- 0200 World News
- 09 British Review
- 15 The A-Z of Hollywood
- 45 Dave Gelly's Songbook
- 0300 News Summary followed by Omnibus
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 The World Today
- 30 Discovery (ex 30th A Matter of Honour)
- 0400 Newsdesk
- 30 Natural Selection (ex 30th Being Human)
- 40 Book Choice
- 45 Reflections
- 50 Financial News
- 0500 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 Report on Religion
- 45 The World Today
- 0600 Newsdesk

Urdu

- 1900 Opening/Holy Quran
- 1910 Beheteen Qaul
- 1920 Songs
- 1935 Press Report
- 1940 Sab-e-e-Nau
- 2000 News in Urdu
- 2020 Songs
- 2040 Hidayat Rabbani
- 2100 Closedown



• American soprano Jane Hawes (above) on Monday performed a selection of classical songs at the Kuwait University Club. She was accompanied on the piano by Prof. Owerkovich from the Higher Institute of Music. Jane is a well-known soprano and presently directs choirs in Kentucky, US, and performs extensively in America.

Christofle

Orfevre a Paris

Christofle: You can live without it but life is so much better with it.

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باريس

Gardenia X'MAS EVE

Gardenia — Enjoy the traditional X'Mas Turkey, Fillet of Sole, English Plum Pudding, etc. in a fun-filled atmosphere.

X'Mas Day Lunch

Sumptuous array of Arabic, Continental and Indian delicacies, some of which are prepared before you in the restaurant.

For Table Reservations, please call 2527300.

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Salmiya Commercial Complex 243136/7 Kuwait

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

THE world is a comedy to those who think, a tragedy to those who feel — Horace Walpole, English statesman (1678-1757).

India aims to attain affluence

By David R. Francis

WASHINGTON: Barber B. Conable, president of the World Bank, has an ambitious goal for the larger Asian countries: eliminate the worst aspects of absolute poverty by the year 2000.

That means doubling the average annual income of individuals in these nations by the end of the century.

Asked if that was possible in India, the country's finance minister, Narain Dutt Tiwari, replied during a recent interview: "It is feasible in certain circumstances. We are for doubling. ... It is an objective worth planning for."

Should that happen, India would move from being a poor nation to a "middle income" country. Or, as Conable put it recently, India and other large Asian nations would move "from poverty to relative affluence."

Whether masses of beggars and other aspects of deep poverty would disappear in India would depend on the distribution of income.

Tiwari spoke of "poverty alleviation" as his government's main goal.

Over the past seven years, India's economy has grown at an annual rate of more than 5 per cent. At that rate, compounded, it would take about 14 years for India's total income to double. But because of its high population growth, growth in per capita income would not keep pace. India, with about 800 million people, has doubled its population in the last 40 years.

This year India has suffered from a drought said to be the worst of the century. The prevalent water shortage has caused a sharp drop in power generation, the death of large number of cattle, and the migration of some villagers. By contrast, three or four states have suffered some severe flooding.

Growth

"Keeping in view the scale of national calamities, the economy is doing well," says Tiwari. He expects "adequate growth" in industry, hit by power shortages, and a "shortfall" in agriculture.

Overall, there may be no growth this year, say reports from New Delhi.

The finance minister was pleased that with 23 million tons of grain reserve set aside from earlier good crops, India can continue to feed itself despite a drop in farm output that is estimated at 10 per cent. It has not needed to ask for massive imports of grain from abroad as

it has had to after past crop failures.

He also spoke of various measures taken to help the more than 100 million people hurt by the natural disasters. These include food distribution and a huge programme of food for work. Landless labourers and others work on roads, reforestation, water conservation measures, and other projects in return for food for themselves and their families. Special trains haul water to drought-stricken areas, hoping to avoid large-scale migration of people and animals.

India expects to avoid famine, though malnutrition will remain widespread.

The World Bank earlier this month came to the aid of India with extra financing of more than \$500 million in addition to the \$2.5 billion already planned in Bank loans. The money, it is hoped, will help to restore economic growth in India.

Surcharge

To help pay for the relief measures, the government has imposed a 5 per cent surcharge on the income tax paid by those relatively well off and on larger corporations. It has also boosted duties on imported luxury goods and put extra taxes on first class train travel and air fares.

Tiwari said he hopes these measures will raise revenues by about \$1 billion.

Some economists charge that India has a bureaucratic, inward-looking economic policy that has slowed growth and initiative.

The finance minister describes India's policy as one of "maximum self reliance." This policy, he said, is helping India in its current economic emergency.

However, Tiwari admitted that as a result of this economic policy much of Indian industry is not technologically up-to-date. However, he said, the government is now attempting to modernise the large chunk of heavy industry owned by the government through "massive infusions" of funds.

"The results will be seen in the next two or three years," he says. "Indeed, they are already there."

Some observers heap praise on Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi for his efforts to deregulate the economy and permit greater free enterprise. Others say he is not moving fast enough.

Tiwari argues that a developing nation like India needs a "mixed economy," with large amounts of government, as well as private, industry. "You have to have some planned investment of resources," with the government setting priorities.

The Christian Science Monitor.

Honduran aid flows to Contras

By Alister Doyle

TEGUCIGALPA, (Reuters): Honduras' continuing support for Nicaraguan rebels, barred under a Central American peace treaty signed in August, has come under increasing domestic criticism.

Apart from some cosmetic changes—the rebels' press office here has been closed—Honduras' strategy of helping the US-funded Contra rebels until it is certain of democratic reforms in Nicaragua has not altered.

"Honduras hasn't complied with its commitment to cut off support for the rebels," a Latin American diplomat said. "This could become a major stumbling block to the whole peace plan."

Some sections of the military as well as some officials in the Foreign Ministry are urging their superiors to drop their support for the rebels in accordance with the peace agreement.

They argue that Nicaragua has moved toward compliance, that renewed US aid to the Contras seems unlikely with a Democrat-controlled Congress, and that Honduras risks being held partly to blame if the peace plan collapses.

Lead

But President Jose Azcona, armed forces chief General Humberto Regalado and Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras lead the rebels' backers in Honduras.

They maintain that the peace process must be backed by the threat of continued military pressure.

So far Nicaragua has reopened some opposition media, declared

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

New oil finds may bring extra \$20m a year

MUSCAT, Dec 22. (UPI): Several newly-discovered oil wells could earn Oman an extra \$20 million a year, an oil firm said yesterday.

Four sites in the south, one in central Oman, and up to three others could come on stream by the end of 1990 with government permission, the chief geologist with Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), Hans Varenkamp, told Reuters.

He said the potential flow at each site ranged from 75 to more than 2,000 barrels per day (BPD).

With an average output of 500 bpd, \$20 million more would flow into the Omani treasury at present oil prices, he said.

Discovery

"The lifespan of a discovery would normally last for 20 years or more. Output will be determined in line with the good and sensible development of Oman's long-term interests."

The announcement came a month before the first intensive search for offshore oil is due to start in the waters between Masirah Island and the South Yemen border.

Varenkamp said no firm commitment to develop the new onshore sites would be made until the reserves of each had been assessed but "in practice we will almost certainly develop most of them within one or two years."

"Precise output will depend on consultation with the government, which will be guided by its partners in the Gulf Cooperation Council and to an extent by Opec."

Oman is not a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries but decided earlier this year to keep its output at 565,000 barrels per day to support the organisation moves to stabilise oil prices.

Brazil unveils measures to increase taxes

BRASILIA, Brazil, Dec 22. (AP): The government yesterday announced measures to hike taxes just three days after Brazil's finance minister resigned in a dispute with President Jose Sarney over the tax reform.

Starting Jan 1, tax rates will be adjusted to inflation, now running at about 15 per cent per month. In other measures, workers with more than one job will pay a tax on the second and only those earning less than \$760 yearly were to be exempt from taxes, according to acting Finance Minister Mailson Ferreira de Nobrega.

Measures

The measures were a watered-down version of a fiscal package proposed by former Finance Minister Luiz Carlos Bresser Pereira and designed to cut the budget deficit running at 6 per cent of the \$300 billion GNP.

On Friday, Bresser Pereira resigned saying he and Sarney disagreed over what he called a "critical" proposal to tax capital earnings — interest, profits and dividends.

The measures were criticised by labour leaders and businessmen alike. Business leader Mario Amato told the nation's largest private TV network, Globo, the measures were "trivial", while a union organiser said they would mean higher taxes for a larger portion of workers.

EEC farmers' income drops 3.4 pc

BRUSSELS, Dec 22. (AP): Farmers in the 22-nation European Economic Community will earn 3.4 per cent less this year than last, mainly because of lower prices and stagnating production, the EEC statistical office reported yesterday.

According to Eurostat, the deterioration of farmers' earnings in real terms was shown as an EEC-wide phenomenon, but varied from country to country.

The study said the main reason for the anticipated decline is the fall in the overall value of farm production.

The sharpest drop in real net income was recorded in West Germany, 17.2 per cent, followed by Denmark, 10.8 per cent; Italy, 6.4 per cent; Belgium, 7.2 per cent; France 3.2 per cent and Britain, 2.7 per cent.

Ireland has recorded the highest rate of increase of about 11.7 per cent, followed by Spain 7.7 per cent and the Netherlands 2.7 per cent.

The report noted farmers' incomes "very often" fluctuate from year to year, rising sharply one year and declining the next.

Opec's makeshift accord weakens price stability

Pricing mechanism beginning to break down

NEW YORK, Dec 22. (UPI): Several scenarios for lower oil prices are emerging in the aftermath of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' inconclusive year-end meeting in Vienna.

The organisation's six days of talks failed to produce any concrete measures on production to reduce the global oil surplus or bolster prices, which have declined steadily in recent weeks because the markets had rightly anticipated that Opec would not be able to resolve its problems.

Fought

The group merely extended its current production quota and \$18-a-barrel benchmark price through the first half of 1988, a victory of sorts for Saudi Arabia, which had fought to maintain official prices in face of weak demand.

The 13-nation organisation also could not persuade the UAE to curb its output, nor put an end to price discounting by several members.

Iran, the most vocal of the price hawks, failed to get the organisation to agree to a \$2-a-barrel price increase mainly because of Saudi opposition. But Tehran succeeded in denying Iraq, its enemy in the seven-year-old Gulf war, a production quota equal to its own.

"So something has to give, either the price or volume," said John Lichtblau, president of Petroleum Industry Research Associates Inc. in New York.

The pricing mechanism

already has started to come apart.

Oil traded on world markets plummeted by more than \$2-a-barrel in the four days after Opec announced its makeshift accord Dec 12.

Ed Krapels, president of the Energy Security Analysis Inc. in Washington, DC, sees even deeper price erosion in the coming months.

He said the 15.06 million barrel-a-day ceiling the Opec ministers agreed to in Vienna, combined with Iraq's current production of 2.5 million to three million barrels a day, will simply put too much oil on the market already bloated with inventories.

Krapels said this scenario, seen in the context of Saudi Arabia's renunciation of its role as the market balancer within Opec, will cause a major price drop.

In the past Saudi Arabia, Opec's largest and most influential producer, was able to defend the organisation's prices by adjusting its own production.

Destination

But the Saudis, hurt by the erosion of its own market share and unable to curb excess output by other members, abandoned the so-called swing producer role in 1986.

The other serious threat to price stability is the return to what is known as netback pricing.

One of the main causes of the 1986 oil price collapse was netback pricing, which links the price of the crude to the value of

petroleum products refined from each barrel.

Since most oil shipments take several weeks to reach their destination, refiners face the risk of serious price fluctuations while the crude still is at sea.

Under netback arrangements, the refiner pays the prevailing price after the oil has landed at its destination. Netbacking is especially useful when prices are declining.

"The absence of a swing producer will become the biggest psychological force in the market," Krapels said in his latest forecast. "To move its oil, Saudi Arabia and other long-haul producers may resort to a new variant of netback pricing."

Netbacking

Krapels said with Opec production at more than 18 million barrels daily between July and October while its ceiling called for only 16.6 million barrels daily but prices did not decline significantly.

"The real source of strength for the organisation is demand, which is about 500,000 barrels a day over the second half of 1986," Verleger said.

He said the demand figures represent actual consumption and not the inventory build-up that has occurred as a buffer against a possible Arabian Gulf oil cutoff.

"Everything is good in the macroeconomics side and, therefore, there will be more demand for oil," he said.

But Verleger also warned that prices could weaken substantially if countries like Kuwait and the UAE decide to increase production or netbacking practice resumes.

Sanford Margoshes, an analyst at Shearson Lehman Brothers Inc. in New York, said the market perception in the aftermath of the Opec meeting is that the organisation is now a

political, not economic, forum and that every producer will continue to cheat.

"It is hoped, however, that the UAE especially Abu Dhabi and perhaps Dubai will cut back," he said.

Reductions

Margoshes said another market perception that inventory reductions are essential to bring supply and demand into balance may already be underway.

"That is why prices have started falling. The question is where do we go from here. There is already a rumour which I cannot confirm that the Saudis are resorting to netbacking," Margoshes said. "We believe, however, that the purpose of this form of discounting is to preserve rather than increase the Saudi market share."

In 1986 the Saudis undertook netbacking to increase their market share, he said, but now the kingdom only wants to be able to sell its 4.3 million barrel-a-day share of Opec's daily production.

Margoshes said he expects Saudi Arabia to make a "modified netback arrangement" with the four US partners in the Arabian-American Oil Co.

Intert

"Right now I don't think it is their intent to lead the market and certainly not to destroy it."

Margoshes said there could be some more downward pressure on prices in the short term, but the "lion's share of the adjustment has already taken place."

World Business Summary

Dutch flower exports in '87 hit record levels

AMSTERDAM, Dec 22. (Reuters): Dutch flower exports in 1987 hit record levels but a sharply lower dollar and falling oil prices depressed sales to the United States and the Middle East, an industry official said today. Flower sales from the Netherlands, the world's biggest exporter, would total more than four billion guilders (\$2.2 billion) for the first time in 1987, Henk Rijken of the Dutch flower wholesale organisation said. "The most popular flowers are roses, tulips, carnations, and chrysanthemums," Rijken told Reuters today. Dutch flower gardens use a sophisticated transport and auction system which has a bouquet of roses to New York less than a day after the flowers are cut in the Netherlands. Rijken said sales to the United States, the fifth most important foreign market for Dutch flowers, fell 16 per cent this year because of the lower dollar. "We had a lot of tulips on offer in spring and the dollar hit usually strong demand for tulips in the US, so prices went down here," he said. But as Christmas approached, prices rose as usual, he added.

Flower sales to Gulf countries such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Bahrain fell by 20 to 40 per cent this year because falling oil prices hurt demand there, he said.

More than 40 per cent of Dutch flower exports went to West Germany. Other leading markets were Britain, Italy and France.

Governments resisted new protectionism: GATT chief

GENEVA, Dec 22. (Reuters): Arthur Dunkel, director-general of the GATT, praised governments today for resisting the temptation during this year's crash on financial markets to slap on new protectionist measures.

"Memories worked," Dunkel told a news briefing. "Everyone was reminded that in the 1930s the troubles on the financial markets were very serious, but what really unleashed a crisis was governmental recourse to protectionist measures." He added: "The stock market crash perhaps also highlighted the fact that those who stressed the weakness of investment in the real economy were right." Dunkel said he believed the crash underlined the importance of the current 105-nation Uruguay round of free trade negotiations under the auspices of GATT — the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. "Borders must stay open," he said. "Because if they do not stay open, the redistribution of demand on the global level can not take place."

Congress passes deficit-cutting package

WASHINGTON, Dec 22. (UPI): Congress approved bills early today to cut the US budget deficit by \$76 billion over two years and now only President Reagan's signature is needed to enact them into law.

After some bruising political fights over the contents of the two measures — especially over aid to US-backed Nicaraguan Contra rebels — the Democrat-controlled Senate and House of Representatives passed compromise bills aimed at satisfying Reagan's objections and demands.

Reagan, a Republican who insisted upon and won inclusion of \$8.1 million in aid for the Contras, was expected to sign the bills into law.

Although the deficit package came in response to unrest on the financial markets after the global stock market crash in mid-October, the most emotional debate was the so-called swing producer role in the budget.

Aid

Representative Henry Hyde, a Republican from Illinois, defended the aid by saying: "There is tyranny in our front yard, and we can't just ignore it, we have to do something about it."

The aid makes up only a small part of the package, which includes a bill containing tax increases and spending cuts over two years and another providing \$600 billion in funding for most

government programmes through September.

"This is an achievement of which we can be proud," Senate democratic leader Robert Byrd of West Virginia said of the overall package.

Senator Pete Domenici, a Republican from New Mexico and key negotiator in seeking a compromise with the White House, said: "This will be the most significant reduction that we've ever had in the history of the budgetary process."

In the first bill \$23 billion in new taxes will be raised in two years, with \$9 billion coming in 1988 and another \$14 billion in 1989. Most of the tax burden would fall on companies.

Spending

It also includes a series of other steps, including spending cuts, asset sales and improved tax collection.

In what marked another victory for Reagan, congressional Democrats agreed at the last

minute to drop demands that a provision be added onto the spending bill enacting the so-called "fairness doctrine". This would require broadcasters to supply equal time to individuals with opposing viewpoints.

Reagan earlier in the year vetoed a bill to the enact the doctrine and vowed he would use his veto power again if the proposal resurfaced in any form.

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Meanwhile, a top Japanese trade official disputed today US charges of widespread dumping of Japanese products in the American market.

The dumping argument is not well defined, trade vice minister Makoto Kuroda told reporters.

US Commerce Secretary William Verity has repeatedly accused Japan of widespread dumping, arguing that exporters here have only raised prices in America by about half of that called for by the steep rise of the yen.

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Strong Japan economy set to grow robust 3.8 pc in '88

TOKYO, Dec 22. (Reuters): Japan's robust economy, apparently unaffected by the rest of the world's economic woes, will grow strongly next year, despite the official forecast.

The official economic forecast said Gross National Product, the total value of all goods and services generated by the economy, will grow at 3.8 per cent in fiscal 1988, starting next April 1, after 3.7 per cent this year.

The prediction confounds the pessimists, who a year ago were predicting a severe impact on Japan from the rising yen and threats of US trade protectionism against its exports.

Shrugged

The economy has also shrugged off any disastrous effects from the world stockmarket collapse in October, in sharp contrast to West Germany's economy, which the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) today said would grow at only 1.5 per cent next year, slower than earlier forecasts.

Measures

The measures were a watered-down version of a fiscal package proposed by former Finance Minister Luiz Carlos Bresser Pereira and designed to cut the budget deficit running at 6 per cent of the \$300 billion GNP.

On Friday, Bresser Pereira resigned saying he and Sarney disagreed over what he called a "critical" proposal to tax capital earnings — interest, profits and dividends.

The measures were criticised by labour leaders and businessmen alike. Business leader Mario Amato told the nation's largest private TV network, Globo, the measures were "trivial", while a union organiser said they would mean higher taxes for a larger portion of workers.

BA triumphs in 6-month takeover battle

LONDON, Dec 22. (Reuters): British Airways (BA) has triumphed in a six-month battle for control of failing British Caledonian (Bcal), fending off a challenge from a Scandinavian rival with a £250 million (\$455 million) bid.

BA announced yesterday it had acquired a 50.2 per cent controlling share in Bcal, boosting its European and intercontinental network in the face of growing competition from US carriers.

Aviation experts said Bcal would probably be fully absorbed into the British Airways structure.

The formation of the British super-airline marks the end of a long struggle to develop British Caledonian into a second force in British commercial aviation.

BA said the board unanimously recommended it to shareholders as the best possible way out of the company's financial plight.

The merger between BA and Bcal, the national carrier privatised by the Conservative government, had been approved earlier by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

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WORLD STOCK MARKETS

جنيه من الأجل

ARAB TIMES, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1987

International Bond Highlights

Amsterdam—The Dutch Finance Ministry said it will allow the issue of Guilder zero coupon bonds and discount bonds starting in 1988 as a further liberalisation of Dutch capital markets.

Zurich—Occidental Petroleum Corp is raising the amount of its 5-3/4 pct four-year bond to 125 mln Swiss francs from 100 mln, lead manager Swiss Bank Corp said.

Interbank Rates

	CALL	ONE MONTH	THREE MONTHS
LDN	8-3/8 1/8	8-5/8 1/2	8-15/16 15/16
FFT	3.80/90	3.75/85	3.70/80
PAR	7-11/16 13/16	8 8-1/8	8-7/16 9/16
ZUR	7/8 1-1/8	3-1/2 3-3/4	3-1/2 3-3/4
BRX	6.75	6-11/16 13/16	6-3/4 7/8
ROM	10-1/8 10-5/8	11-1/4 11-3/4	11-1/4 11-3/4
AMS	4-9/16 4-11/16	4-9/16 4-11/16	4-11/16 4-3/4
TOK	3.7500 8125	4.0000 0625	3.8750 9375
ECU	6.18 6.43	7.18 7.31	7.18 7.31

Interest Rates

FOLLOWING	are the average K.D interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait, yesterday.
Period	Bid Offered
1 month	3-9/16 4-1/8
3 months	4-9/16 5-1/8
6 months	5-1/4 5-3/4
1 year	5-7/16 5-15/16

BOMBAY

	PR.CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	GNFC	30.50	30.50	30.25	NODTALKALI	6	6.25	6.25
ACC	160	159	155	GRAYON120	--	--	--	HARRDACHMT	--	--	--
AHDADV	--	--	--	GSFC	88	87	87	DRKAY	24.75	25	24
AHDADV400	--	--	--	GJPETRO	23	24.50	23.50	PREMAUTO	25	25.50	24.50
AMHRA CEM	11.50	11	11.50	GMALIDRON	96	95.50	95	RAYMOND CO	--	--	--
AMHRA VLY	--	--	--	HINDALCO	115	115	114	RAYMONHOL	88	87	88
BAJAJ AUTO	4325	4500	4375	RHY LAMPS	--	--	--	RELIANCE	108	109	108
BAR RAYON	147.50	145	150	IND ORG	24	24.50	24	SPIC	28.50	28.25	28.75
BON DYING	92	92	91.25	INDRAYON	53.50	53.50	53	STD MILLS	200	200	200
BOMBAY STOCK PRICES	--	--	--	INDROL	187.50	185	186.25	STDMEDICAL	13	13	13.50
BSE INDEX	407.92	407.92	407.92	ITC	40	40	41	STEELTUBE	--	9.50	10.50
CENTURYSPG 652.50	655	657.50	657.50	ITC CO	--	--	--	TATA PMR	196.25	193.75	192.50
COLDGATE	194	194	192	JK 120	--	--	--	TATACHEM	66	66.50	66.50
DEEPAKFT	31.50	31	31.75	JKSYNT	61.50	60	60.50	TATAOIL	81	82	82
DHARMENT	--	--	--	L AND T	80	79	79	TELCO	377	367.50	370
FICOM ORG	--	--	--	MAGNAHARD	--	--	--	UDAIPHOSH	--	--	--
GARMPOLY	79	--	--	NAHINDRA	53.50	53.50	53	VOLTAS	305	300	305

FRANKFURT

TOKYO

STOCK	LAST PR-CLOSE	STOCK	LAST PR-CLOSE	MITSUBI CP	1000	1020
AEG	212.6	212.0	AIJINOMOTO	3290	3330	MITSUBI EL
ALLIANZ VR	1212.0	1202.0	AKAI ELEC	435	450	MITSUBI EST
BADENWERK	185.5	184.0	AOKI	980	980	MITSUBI HVI
BAASF	262.5	261.4	ASAHI GAS	1800	1770	MITSUKOSHI
BAFTER	272.1	271.3	ASAHI OPT	530	558	MITSUMI EL
BAYER HYP	326.0	321.0	BANK TOKYO	1350	1350	NICHICON
BAYER VER	324.0	320.0	BRIDGESTON	1220	1250	NIKON CHMT
BBC	285.5	285.5	CANON	952	953	NIKKO SEC
BRF	323.0	323.0	CASIO COMP	1130	1140	NIP ELEC
BWM	477.0	472.0	CHUGAI HNG	0	1490	NIP KOKAN
CHEMIE-VER	0	120.0	CITIZEN W	499	496	NIP OIL
COMMERZBK.	225.0	226.5	D-ICHI KAN	2850	2850	NIP STEEL
CONTI GUHM	230.0	229.1	DAI NIP IK	751	760	NIP YUSEN
DAIMER BEN	613.5	615.0	DAI NIP PT	2320	2340	NIS MOTOR
DEUTSC BNK	411.5	413.5	DAI NIP SC	845	835	NONURA SEC
DLW	310.0	310.0	DAI NIP TO	448	465	OHBA CO
DRESDNER B	237.5	238.5	DAICEI	757	765	OLYMPUS
DY-BACBOK	156.0+	160.5-	DAIMATH	1690	1700	PENTA OCH
EAZ. INDEX	440.89	459.10	DAIMAT SEC	1790	1860	PIONEER
GENSCHER/DE	239.0	232.0	EBRA MFG	773	783	RENOM
GUTERHOFF	--	--	ETAI	2080	2100	RICOH
HARPERNER	359.5	360.0	FUJITSU	1210	1230	SANKYO
HOECHST AG	261.7	260.5	FUJI BANK	3100	3110	SANYO ELEC
HOESCH	95.1	97.0	FUJI PHOTO	4050	4050	SEIYU ST
HORTEN	162.0	163.0	FUJISAWA	1910	1910	SEKISUI PB
HUSSEL HLD	452.0	452.0	FUJITA CP	700	705	SHARP
KALI SALZ	125.0	125.0	HITACHI	1200	1240	SHISEIDO
KARSTADT	454.0	447.0	HONDA MOT	1330	1340	SONY
KAUFHOF	430.0	417.5	ISETAN	1350	1330	SUNITOMO
KLOCKE H	84.5	81.0	ITO YOKADO	3810	3780	TAISEI
KLOCKE W	0	79.0	JAP SYN RU	951	911	TAISHO MRN
LUFTHANSA	535.0	532.0	JAPAN AIR	13600	13500	TAKEDA CH
MAN	132.0	129.6	JAPAN MET	422	440	TEIJIN
MANNESMAN	143.0	143.0	KAJIMA	1540	1560	TKO NEW IX
MERCEDES	477.5	482.0	KANSAI EL	2830	2850	TOKIO MRN
METALLGES	235.0	238.0	KAO SOAP	1840	1880	TOKYO ELEC
MIXDORF	573.5	570.0	KAMASAKI H	254	255	TOKYO GAS
MORSK HYD	35.00	34.80	KAWASAKI S	345	353	TOKYO POM
PHILIP KOM	618.0	616.0	KIRIN BREW	2100	2110	TORAY IND
POSCHE	457.0	420.0	KOMATSU	628	620	TOSHIBA EL
PRESSAG	122.0	120.2	KUBATO LTD	547	546	TOTO
PMA	182.0	183.0	KYOCERA	5280	5300	TOYO KKOGY
RHEIN P	218.0	219.8	MAKITA EL	1630	1660	TOYOTA MOT
RHEINMET	206.9	207.0	MARU	2940	2920	YAMAHA
RELMADDER	258.0	240.0	MATSUTA EI	2180	2200	YAMAITCHI
RELMADDER	266.0	265.5	MATSUTA EL	2120	2170	YAMANOUCHI
SCHERING	344.5	369.0	MEIJI SEIK	945	950	YANAZAKI
SEL	288.0	289.5				
SIEMENS	375.1	378.1				
TRYSSEN	109.5	110.0				
VARTA	231.0	230.0				
VEBA	274.2	276.0				
VEW	162.5	162.5				
VOLKSWAGEN	235.5	234.0				

Tokyo Stock Market Report

TOKYO STOCKS CLOSE LOWER IN LIGHT TRADE TOKYO, DEC 22 - SHARE PRICES CLOSED LOWER IN THIN TRADING AS THE MARKET WAITED FOR THE U.S. CONGRESS TO PASS LEGISLATION CUTTING THE U.S. FEDERAL BUDGET DEFICIT, BROKERS SAID. "THE MARKET HAS NO APPETITE," SHIGERU YOSHIDA, SALES MANAGER OF SANTO SECURITYS SAID.

"THE NIKKEI AVERAGE LOST 215.82 POINTS, OR 0.94 PCT., TO 27,612.02, THE INDEX ROSE 129.87 ON MONDAY. FALLS LED RISES ALMOST THREE TO ONE IN TURNOVER OF 400 MILN SHARES AGAINST 500 MILN

OECD tells governments to strengthen market confidence

West must act urgently to boost growth

PARIS, Dec 22. (Reuter): The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) told industrial nations today they must act urgently to promote economic expansion following the financial crash of 87.

The call, in a half-year review by the 24-nation economic affairs 'think tank', brought an embarrassing public clash with West Germany.

The West German delegation stunned OECD officials by issuing a communique categorically stating that Bonn saw no need for further action to boost its economy.

The OECD's gloomy assessment of the industrial world's prospects had said the market crash, on and after Wall Street's Black Monday, October 19, wiped off about half a percentage point from projected growth rates for the West as a whole over the next two years.

Action

It saw a risk of further deterioration unless coordinated action was taken quickly. It stressed that slower expansion would rule out any improvement in high unemployment until at least the end of this decade.

"Governments ... need to move promptly to restore credibility, and to strengthen market confidence that major problems are being addressed effectively," the OECD said.

One of the governments called on to do more was that of West Germany. And it did not like it. It has been particularly sensitive to criticism, by the United States and also France, that it is not going enough to stoke up a sluggish economy.

Measures

"The Federal Republic of Germany is called upon to take additional fiscal policy measures in order to ensure higher growth. From the German point of view, the present economic situation does not require further measures," the West German delegation's statement, issued in Paris, said.

A senior OECD economist conceded to Reuters: "It's evidence of a fairly strong disagreement. They had told us that they disagreed with the report.

Dollar eases

Markets move in narrow ranges

LONDON, Dec 22. (Reuter): The dollar closed slightly lower in Europe today and world share prices lacked any clear direction as financial markets wound down ahead of Friday's Christmas holiday.

News from Washington that Congress had approved a much-anticipated package of cuts in US budget deficit had little impact.

While dealers have long said such cuts were needed to help restore confidence to nervous markets, the passage of the US spending and revenue bills through the Senate and the House of Representatives seem to have been largely discounted.

Dealers also expect a promised statement from the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialised nations to contain few surprises.

"I imagine that everything coming from that corner has already been fully discounted in prices," said one dealer.

Mixed

European shares were narrowly mixed in thin trading while stocks in Tokyo and Hong Kong slipped. Wall Street was broadly down across-the-board in early trading.

The dollar closed at 1.6285 West German marks in London after closing yesterday at 1.6340. It finished at 126.50 Japanese yen compared to 127.05. Business was quiet.

A number of key European banks had closed their books for the year and dealers said the Christmas holiday would sideline many investors for the rest of the week. Most world markets close on Friday for Christmas. Tokyo remains open.

Gold bullion was fixed in London this afternoon at \$483 an ounce, just slightly higher than the morning fix of \$481.60.

Dealers in currencies and shares see the US budget cuts — which President Reagan is expected to sign, enacting them into law, later today — as just a first step in a new effort by the G-7 to steady the dollar.

The OECD's gloomy assessment of the industrial world's prospects had said the market crash, on and after Wall Street's Black Monday, October 19, wiped off about half a percentage point from projected growth rates for the West as a whole over the next two years.

but we have to stick to our guns."

OECD gloom contrasted with assertions by American, Japanese and French, as well as West German, government officials in recent days that the financial crash has yet to do much damage to their real underlying economies.

The OECD said growth in the Gross National Product (GNP) of the OECD area would fall to 1.75 per cent by 1989 from 2.25 per cent next year and 2.75 per cent this year.

West Europe would expand more slowly than the United States or Japan.

Problems

The stock market crash had created problems for monetary authorities. They had to balance demands for extra liquidity to help business against the need to see that too much money did not reinvigorate inflation.

Inflation is expected to creep up to 3.5 per cent over the next two years in the OECD area as a whole from 3.25 per cent in 1987, with the rise most marked in the United States and Japan.

The OECD then called firmly on West Germany to improve its growth rate, which is forecast to fall to 1.25 per cent in 1989 from an already sluggish 1.5 per cent.

The OECD report tallies exactly with an outlook from the West Germany's own independent Economic Affairs Advisory Council in November.

The government predicts expansion of 1.5 to two per cent next year, and hopes an investment package and a recent cut in interest rates may boost it above two per cent.

But the OECD believes the impact of the market's crash on trade and the dollar — halved in value since 1985 and now at historic lows — has hit West Ger-

many growth prospects.

"It is the assessment of the OECD and most other observers that, even taking account of the 1988 tax cuts and discounting any adverse direct effects of the stock market crisis, the German economy may continue to grow below its medium term potential over the remainder of the 1980s," the OECD said.

Group of Seven finance ministers agreed in February at their Louvre meeting in Paris to act to reduce imbalances in world trade, with the surplus nations, Japan and West Germany, pledging to boost growth in their domestic economies.

But, with expansion remaining sluggish elsewhere, the US trade deficit has touched new records, going above \$17 billion in 1988, compared with \$13.4 billion in 1987 and \$15.6 billion this year.

Next, the OECD urged Japan and West Germany to ensure that their economies grew steadily so that they buy more goods and take up the slack in global demand as the United States acts to balance its books.

Japanese growth is forecast to slip to three per cent in 1989 from 3.5 per cent now, though recent tax measures were likely to lead rapidly to higher domestic demand, it said.

Impact

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Gulf Bank weekly market review

KD strengthens against dollar

BASED on opening middle market FX rates, the KD further strengthened against a declining US dollar to end the week at a record high of 272.55 fils compared to week before last closing of 275.69 fils. The KD was easier against pound sterling closing the week at 501.08 fils against week before last closing of 497.07 fils.

A further fall in unemployment, now eight per cent of the workforce, was unlikely but wage increases should continue to be moderated in line with a new income policy, the report said.

Deregulation

A policy of price deregulation and reduced state subsidies left the government less room to act on rising prices, it said.

Inflation in Greece might fall to 12.5 per cent by the turn of 1989, on the assumption of a rate of increase in average pay of 13.75 per cent next year as well as constant trading profit margins and a recovery in productivity, the review said.

Meanwhile, OECD said inflation might ease slightly, but unemployment would remain close to present levels next year in most southern European countries.

Trade deficits in those countries, apart from Turkey, were likely to worsen as a result of rising consumer demand, it said.

The current account in Spain was expected to go into deficit over the next two years from a small surplus in 1987, despite continuing gains of export market share, the 24-nation economic think tank said in its latest half-yearly review.

Spanish inflation would fall to 3.75 per cent in 1989 from 5.5 per cent this year and unemployment was expected to fall slightly, although staying near one in five of the workforce.

But expected broad orientations to remain unchanged, although some tightening of fiscal policy was possible.

As employment was expected to increase only moderately in response to slower output growth, the unemployment rate in Turkey would probably remain high.

With both exports and imports seen growing at a slower pace, the current external deficit was likely to remain around the \$1 billion level, the OECD said.

Moscow keen to boost economic ties with Iran

TEHRAN, Dec 22. (Opecna): Prime Minister Hussein Musavi has been assured of Soviet keenness to cooperate with Iran, especially in the oil industry, railways and transportation.

The assurance came from the Soviet ambassador to the country, Vladimir Gudov, during a meeting with the prime minister on Thursday.

The envoy said it was in the interest of both countries to step up cooperation and develop closer bilateral relations.

year earlier. Producer prices in November were unchanged from October when they had risen 0.3 percent and stood 0.1 percent higher from a year ago. Public sector deficit rose by 41.1 billion marks in the first 9 months of 1987.

Pound sterling

After opening the week at \$1.8350/60, sterling closed lower at \$1.8230/40, below its week before last closing of \$1.8375/85. Earlier in the week, the pound slipped in response to weakening oil prices after the latest Opec accord.

It was also depressed by news from the Confederation of British Industry on Monday that British exporters are starting to feel the effects of sterling's strength. However, it recovered later in the week on encouraging UK data.

US dollar

The lengthy debates continued over the weekend to resolve differences between White House and Congress in measures over spending cuts and tax increases to seek a compromise to comply with the two bills approved on Dec 16 by the Senate to cut budget deficit by at least \$76 billion over two years and the \$608 billion spending bill till Sept. 30.

Therefore no support was provided to the dollar on the budget deficit reduction front as the dollar posted new record

INFOCUS
The world today



WEEEPING relatives attend to one of the 26 survivors in the collision between a tanker and a cruise liner in which some 2,000 are feared missing or dead. (Reuter radiophoto)



PORTO'S Algerian striker Madjer poses near a Christmas creche as he announces yesterday in Madrid that he will play for Valencia soccer club from January 1, 1988 until the end of the Spanish season when he will join Bayern Munich. (Reuter radiophoto)



SOUTH KOREAN citizens read an advertisement in yesterday's paper by opposition leader Kim Dae Jung apologising to his supporters for losing in last week's presidential election by failing to field a single candidate against the government candidate Roh Tae Woo. Kim also said in the advertisement that the election was rigged and he would fight for democracy. (Reuter radiophoto)



CHINESE pilot Liu Chih Yuan, who defected to Taiwan in November with his MiG-19 fighter, is given 5,000 taels of gold and a rank of major at the Nationalist Air Force yesterday. Chief of General Staff Hau Pei Tsun (left) is seen pinning the rank on Liu's shoulder. (Reuter radiophoto)



SPANISH King Juan Carlos (left) greets Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Ahmed Esmet Maguid during a private audience at the Zarzuela Palace on Monday. (Reuter radiophoto)



THE explosive Howard beach trial came to an end on Monday when Jon Lester and Scot Kern, both 18, were convicted of manslaughter in the death of Michael Griffith, a black man who was run down by a car on a highway in 1986. Both were also convicted of assault and conspiracy. Jason Ladone, 17, was also convicted of manslaughter and assault, while Michael Pirone, 18, was cleared of all charges. Pictured left to right: Pirone, Kern, Lester and Ladone. (Reuter radiophoto)



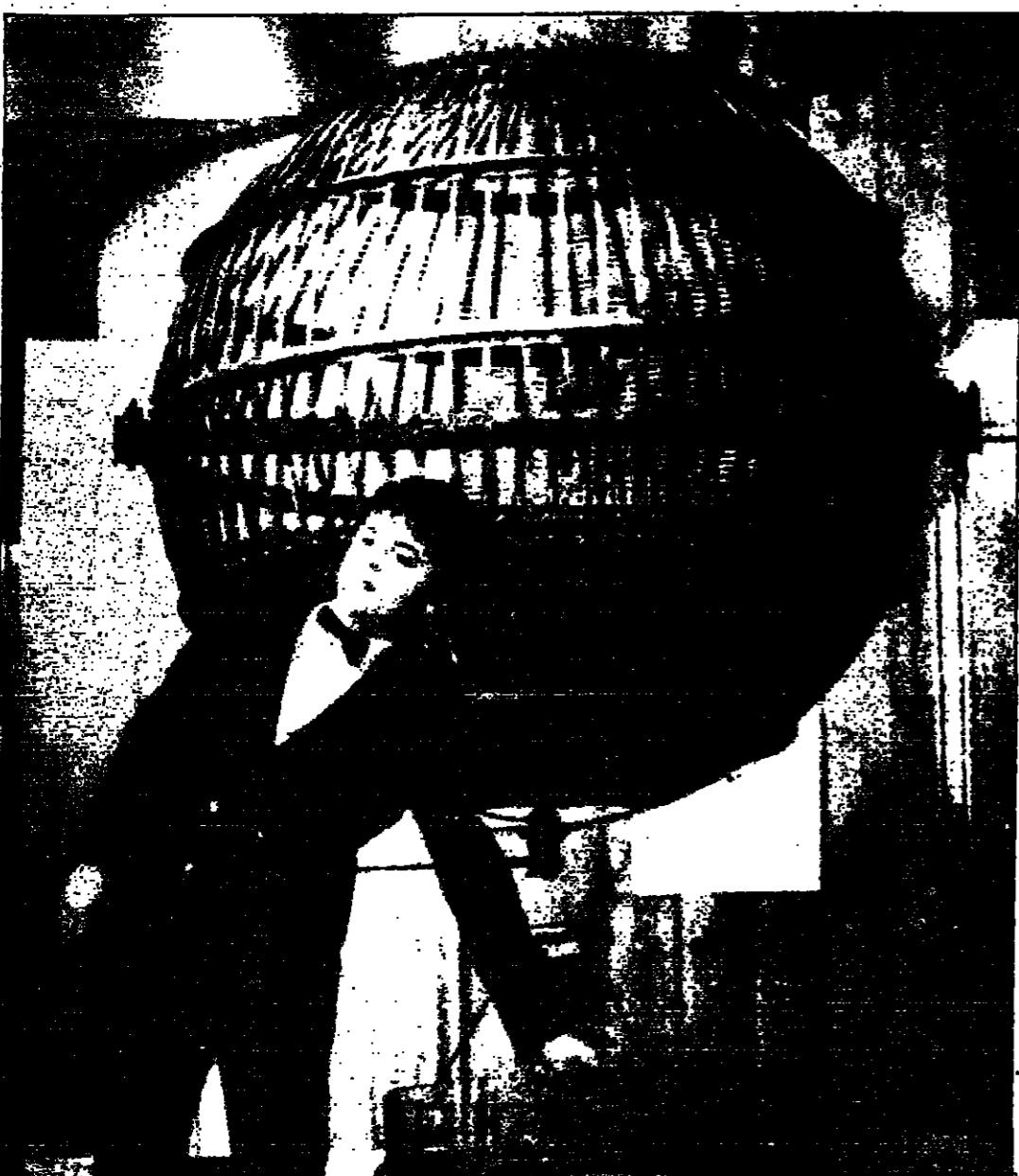
A WOMAN seen distributing bread in this "restaurant of the heart" as many have reopened for winter to feed the poor and homeless, in a tradition started three years ago by the late actor Coluche. Some 220,000 people are expected daily in the 600 soup-kitchens around France where 7,000 volunteers will serve them free hot meals. (Reuter radiophoto)



SANTA CLAUS rides a buggy in St Marks Square in Venice on Monday. (Reuter radiophoto)



JORDAN'S King Hussein (right) and Soviet President of the Presidium Andrei Gromyko (second left) inspect the Soviet honour guard upon King Hussein's arrival in Moscow on an official visit on Monday. (Reuter radiophoto)



A YOUNG Madrid orphan reaches down to grab a ball with a winning number on it during yesterday's drawing of Spain's annual Christmas lottery — the world's richest with a total prize money of \$770 million. (Reuter radiophoto)



AN Iranian family Mosser Yazdi (centre) and Roykeh Mihikkon (left) with their children Mojban Tehram and Sasha Yazo arrived at Madrid's Barajas airport Monday night after Spain granted them asylum on grounds of humanitarian reasons. Two of the Iranians had attempted suicide by slashing their wrists on board an Iberia plane bound for Madrid after their expulsion from Denmark where their plea for political asylum was rejected. (Reuter radiophoto)



A LONDON office worker finds time to catch up on his thoughts during the busy lead-up to Christmas, by making some friends in St James Park and ensuring they have their small share of the festive spirit. (Reuter radiophoto)

By Kathy Cuddihy

TRUE joy lies in giving. There's certainly a lot of truth in the statement. But do you ever notice that the people who push the virtue never get around to mentioning the glitches involved in being generous? For example, who among us hasn't been challenged by the "difficult" gift? That house gift for a house you're about to visit for the first time. You've never met the owners of the house, either, so it's guesswork all the way. Or the friend or relative you knew well—20 years ago—and haven't seen since. But suddenly there's going to be a reunion, and tradition demands the offering of a suitable gift. Or that illusive present for the man/woman who supposedly has everything. Just as formidable are presents for people who "don't want anything." They should get exactly what they want: nothing. After all, they're either lying through their teeth and therefore don't deserve anything, or it's their way of saying they don't trust your judgment—in which case they don't even deserve the thrill of the gamble.

In theory, children should present no problem when it comes to gifts. We all know that clothes, furniture, and anything that's practical or nutritious are strictly taboo. That leaves toys. To assist the addled adult, most toys and games now conveniently state "suitable for age such and such." What could be simpler? A basic skateboard costs almost as much as a downpayment on a mink coat? We had to mortgage last year's computerized galactic monsters (still in mint condition after only minimal use) to pay for this year's models!

But if there's joy in giving dubious as it may be at times, there is also joy in receiving. Usually, being a recipient does have its hazards.

The gift of giving



I personally find it nearly impossible to maintain a glow of pleasure when receiving a stuffed creature—and I don't mean a teddy bear. Our giant, leather and varnish turtle, which the children adore, is a case in point. I just can't warm to something which stares malevolently at me from behind dark, glassy eyes. Despite my efforts to hide it away, it keeps appearing unexpectedly, scaring the wits out of me every time... like when I bend down to tuck the children into bed and give them a goodnight kiss... only to find myself being accosted by a hooked beak!

In the same league as stuffed animals come accessories made from reptile skins... with the beast's head appended for maximum effect. Another of my "gifts to remember," a stunning handbag, outshone the stuffed turtle by light years. This gift brought an involuntary scream to my lips as I removed it from its expensive box... and caught my fingers in a row of teeth. At least I don't have to worry about bag snatchers—unless they want to risk losing an arm.

Perplexing

Almost as perplexing as gifts that once lived as gifts that can't be identified. One of our wedding presents was a beautiful, octagonal, china "thing" with a loose-fitting lid. It obviously had a specific function, but even the smartest China shops in our city (halfway across the world from the "thing's" point of origin) couldn't enlighten us. My thank you note was a masterpiece of diplomatic vagueness. Several years later we learned that people in the know called the "thing" a ginger jar.

Fortunately, most

reputable stores are agreeable, even sympathetic, when it comes to exchanging gifts. It does become embarrassing, though, when the store refuses to accept your particular item because it was originally bought on sale... several months previously. But the real piece de resistance comes when the store has never stocked the item you're trying to return—despite the fact the gift came wrapped in the store's fancy box...

What happens to those gifts we won't use or can't return? Some of them get stashed away, ready for rapid retrieval should the donor happen to visit and expect to see his/her otherwise undisplayable gift on display (like the rooster lamp or the phosphorescent replica of a famous monument). Other rejects get foisted upon unsuspecting charitable organisations or appear in garage sales. Yet others survive through bequest. We are the current owner of a gaudy brass chariot. It has been bestowed by departing group members upon remaining members for the past 8 years.

Unfortunately we're the last remnants of the old gang, so we're left holding the reis.

Of course, some people have no such worries about what to do with unwanted gifts. They recycle with sincerity. When we asked our maid why she never uses the camera we gave her, she proudly replied that she had given it to her brother as a wedding present. Not an ounce of guilt or embarrassment did she suffer. Her attitude is that the gift served its main purpose in merely being given. What she's really trying to tell us is that it's the thought that counts... and of course she's right.

But next year, Aunt Tilda, could you show some imagination when you choose your thoughtful gift? Thermal underwear 6 years in a row tests even the most grateful recipient!

Nancy writing her memoirs

By Helen Thomas

WASHINGTON, (UPI)—Nancy Reagan, admitting she feels tired and wishes she had more time to recuperate from breast cancer surgery, says articles and books written about her are "infuriating" but she puts them out of her mind.

"Otherwise I don't know how you'd survive," she said in a wide-ranging interview with United Press International.

"Lots of things have been written about me," she said. "They can be infuriating—they can be maddening and they can be frustrating, but OK, that's it, and you have to put it out of your mind and go ahead with what you're interested in and what you want to do. Otherwise, I don't know how you survive."

While the first lady indicated she found former aides' tell-all books distasteful, she revealed she herself is well into writing her memoirs.

"Obviously I'm not going to finish it until after we walk out the door," she said. Her technique is to "talk into a tape recorder. It's amazing how much you forget. You think you will never forget. But, my gosh, I'm appalled at the things I've forgotten. It's overload."

Mrs. Reagan's eyes were misty when she revealed that she felt "very badly" about the perjury conviction of close friend Michael Deaver and understands she cannot mix socially with him while his case is under appeal.

Deaver, a Reagan family friend of 20 years who was deputy White House chief of staff from January 1981 to May 1985, was convicted of perjury in probes of his post-government lobbying.

She said sadly she would not be able to extend the traditional invitation for Christmas dinner this year to Deaver and his family because of his legal problems.

Asked whether she thought Deaver should get a presidential pardon, she said, "I don't think that's anything for me to get into, obviously."

She also said it is "not for me to decide" whether pardons



Mrs. Reagan finds articles and books written on her infuriating.

role in ousting Donald Regan from the post of chief of staff Feb. 28, and said his successor, Howard Baker, is doing a fine job. But she denies she is the power behind the throne.

She explained the influence she does have with the President is born out of their long marriage. "My Gosh, when you've been married 36 years, don't you discuss everything? What would you talk about? Who did your hair?... of course, you talk and exchange opinions."

But reports of a profound sway over her husband are "really not fair to him."

She said of the aides who left the White House, "I think at times (the President) could have been better served," but that the President does not hold grudges.

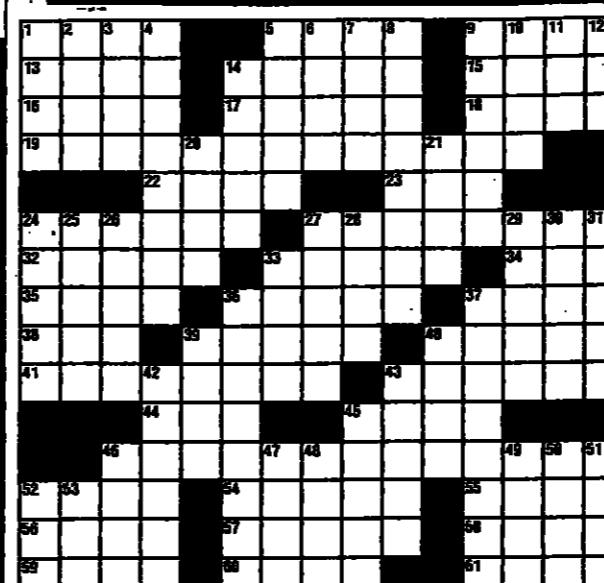
"Everybody says, 'Gee, he doesn't seem to have aged in office and I think that's one of the reasons, because he doesn't let things eat away at him,' " she explained.

"He really is amazing... when you think of all he's been physically, mentally and politically."

Of Deaver's forthcoming book, *Behind The Scenes*, which portrays the First Lady as the person who got her husband "to soften his line toward the Soviet Union" and move toward an arms agreement, she said, "I haven't read it."

She discounted reports she was furious over excerpts that have been printed. "How can I

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Freshwater fish
- 5 Competent
- 9 Women
- 13 Encourage
- 14 Encore
- 15 Russian news agency
- 16 Aft
- 17 Iraqi port
- 18 Gaelic
- 19 Irrelevant
- 22 Printer's mark
- 23 Possess
- 24 Part of HSH
- 27 Yelled
- 32 Coeur d'—, Idaho
- 33 Felt ill
- 34 Macaw of Brazil
- 35 Speedy
- 36 Valuable violin, for short
- 37 Transport for a British baby.
- 38 ABA member
- 39 Go too fast
- 40 Old hat
- 41 Put back into use
- 43 Silences
- 44 Saver's letters
- 45 Certain Egyptian stocks
- 52 Happy
- 54 Wear away
- 55 — Donini
- 56 Ireland
- 57 More unusual
- 58 Spouse
- 59 Sea bird
- 60 Miner's nail
- 61 Angers
- 62 Down
- 63 Obliterate
- 64 Cutting comment
- 65 Busy as —
- 66 Coral and Red
- 67 Shrift
- 68 Shindig
- 69 Cash in Como
- 70 Smitten
- 71 Breastbones
- 72 Listen!
- 73 Painter's, at times
- 74 Deli purchase
- 75 Wading bird
- 76 Insect stage
- 77 Tennis great Bill
- 78 Artist Winslow
- 79 Yielded
- 80 Young salmon
- 81 Catch
- 82 Sandy hill, in Cornwall
- 83 Amazed
- 84 Islamic month
- 85 Fill with joy
- 86 Musical symbols
- 87 Fathered
- 88 Garbed
- 89 Tree knot
- 90 Grafted, in heraldry
- 91 Digits
- 92 Obtain
- 93 Prevaricate

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

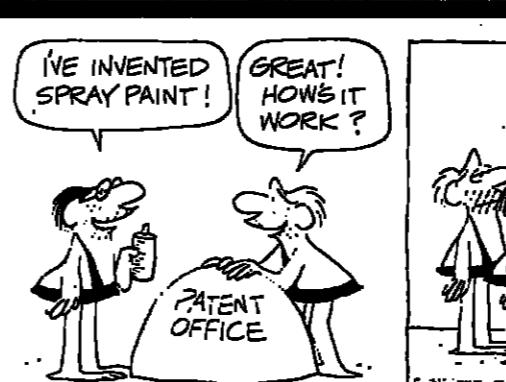
BEDS	INCUR	VAST
OLEO	NOONIE	ERIE
LIEU	CELLARETTE	
TASTERS	EMERSED	
CAME	ASSAI	
TRANSACTS	REGAL	
RILE	SAT	RESCDA
AVA	RENEGED	DAR
MATTED	SAG	AVID
SLEEP	STRUMMERS	
LEAPS	LOOT	
CADENCE	PAPERED	
ARISTOCRAT	BIKE	
DEMIRINSE	ADEN	
SASS	NESTS	ESSE

THE WIZARD OF ID



By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart

B.C.



By Johnny Hart

YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

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the White House, "I think at

times (the President) could

have been better served," but

that the President does not hold

grudges.

"When you have a little

money, little support, it must be

agonizing," she said.

"What's the best part of

being First Lady?

"Being able to use a

patent," she said. "Nobody is

prepared for the kind of mag-

nifying glass that you're under.

I don't care how long you've

been in public life."

"You just learn to handle it."

"I'll miss a lot" about the

White House, she laughed. "In

a way everything is taken care

of. You have help. You have a

plane. You can't take air force

one with you."



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

Mars's better influence will help

you to deal with a personal

problem. You should not spend

too much time on secondary mat-

ters. You should be a little more

practical. Be moderate.



Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

You will be able to catch up on

something that has fallen behind

through no fault of yours. You

should beware what you say about

others and whom to. Take the

greatest of care when walking or

Script on Indus Valley seals could represent a numerical system

Deciphering a 5000-year-old mystery

By M.D. Rity

COULD the script on the Indus Valley seals represent a numerical system? This is the question posed by scientist-historian Dr B.V. Subrayappa. Until now, scholars had attempted to interpret the script as a linguistic or alphabetical system, with a few numbers. This approach had ended in a virtual dead-end as no one could decipher the script in its entirety.

"In spite of all that has been written on the subject, the Indus Valley script will have to remain a mystery till such time as a key of unimpeachable character, or a bilingual inscription with a known language, or a long inscription with significant recurrent features is found," wrote T.V. Mahalingam in his book Early South Indian Paleography.

Dr Subrayappa, who is the director of the Centre for the History and Philosophy of Science of the Indian Institute of World Culture in Bangalore, thinks he has now found the key to interpret this script.

He suggests that the Harappan civilisation, which was both widespread and commercially developed, must have evolved a number system of its own. This would have been necessary for its merchants and traders to develop a system of weights and measures and maintain accounts.

Premise

Archaeologists and scholars who had studied the Indus seals had identified certain rod-like forms, and some others, as numerals. Was it possible that even the other signs, innumerable as they appear to be, are actually numerical forms? If they are, then in what manner can they be substantiated?

Do they also have some fundamental forms which in turn have yielded their derivatives? Dr Subrayappa studied the symbols on the seals, amulets

The Indus Valley script has been a puzzle for archaeologists ever since it was excavated over seventy years ago. Deciphering the dialect would unlock the mysteries of this ancient civilisation. An Indian researcher has now claimed that he possesses the key to the secret of Harappa and Moenjodaro



Dr. B.V. Subrayappa

and beads in depth for more than two years, and was finally able to find answers to these questions.

Scholars from India and other countries have all worked from the basic premise that the Indus script stood for a language. The renowned historian Father Heras had said that the people Moenjodaro and Harappa were Dravidians who spoke a proto-Tamil language, and that their script was pictographic. Researchers like Langdon, C.J. Gadd, Pran Nath, S.K. Ray, W.M.F. Petrie, M.G. De Hevesy and H.P. Meggi regarded it as a script of alphabets and allied linguistic concepts.

Swami Shankarananda and B.M. Baruah even felt that it had tantric overtones. More recently, Finnish scholar Asko Parpolo and Russian scholar Khorozov attempted to analyse the structure of this script by using computers. S.R. Rao interprets it as an old Indo-Aryan language with an affinity to the language of the Rig

Veda. But none of them could decode the entire range of symbols found on the seals.

More than 2900 seals have been recovered from about 20 Harappan and five West Asian sites. Anthropological information about the inhabitants of the Indus Valley civilisation is scarce, so we know little about these people. Archaeologists agree, though, that this civilisation, which they refer to as the Harappan culture, was at its peak between 2500 and 1900 BC, and that it continued as the late Harappan phase.

The dimensions of the seals range from 1 cm x 1 1/4 cm to 5 cm x 5 cm. As many as 1540 seals were found on the site now called Moenjodaro, today in Pakistan, while Harappa accounted for another 985. Of the sites in India, 165 of the seals are from Lothal, 99 from Kalibangan and 86 from Chanhudaro. Most of the seals are made of steatite, Cooper, ivory, agate, chert, faience and clay are some of the other materials used.

Each seal has a large motif, usually of an animal, with some other symbols in the remaining space. Dr Subrayappa examined these other notations in some depth, and has now come to the conclusion that they are actually a well-knit form of the decimal system. The basic elements of this system are the vertical rod forms.

These rod forms, either long, medium or short, denote numbers from one to 12. The actual origin of the concept of numbers is shrouded in the mists of antiquity. Counting on the fingers probably played a major

role in the process. Five fingers of a hand enabled counting up to five; a combination of fingers and toes up to 10.

Would there have been a decimal system if early man had had four or six fingers on each hand? Dr Subrayappa suggests that the fact that man had five digits on each hand and foot gave rise to the quinary, decimal and vigesimal systems. In the Indus system, one rod, which really represented a finger, stood for the numeral one, two rods for the numeral two and so on.

Specific symbols were used for 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 20 and so on. The derivatives of these notations were, in turn, rationally worked out. This indicates that the seal-makers might have been trained in the process of numerical recording. Earlier scholars thought that the seals were used strictly for commercial purposes. This numerical interpretation makes Dr Subrayappa think that some of them might have been meant for keeping a record of accounts.

Numerals

The Indus numerals as interpreted by Dr Subrayappa connote the addition-multiplication system. He has worked out detailed derivations of the numerals to decipher the exact numbers denoted on the seals. His number spectrum has one as the minimum and a little over 90,000 as the maximum of the numbers expressed.

Moreover, about 800 of the seals depict the numbers above 1000, and 130 of these connote 60,000 and above.

As further evidence to support his theory, Dr Subrayappa suggests that several other number systems of later civilisations that have already been deciphered, originate from the Indus numeral system as interpreted by him.

Seals from the Indus Valley have been found in places like Ur, Telloh, Kish, Umma and Susa. It is known that the inhabitants of this civilisation had established trade with neighbouring civilisations. "The numerical forms used by the Chinese Shang dynasty and the Attic Greeks, and in the Brahmi and Kharoshthi inscriptions seem to be derived from the Indus numeral system," says Dr Subrayappa.

"Numerical systems are of great value for any kind of human dynamics. I think that the basics of Indus numeral science were used either directly or indirectly by the Chinese and the Greeks."

The Harappan numerical system had several innovations for doubling and tripling as well as for multiplying by fusing or conjointing numerals. This is seen in the derivative forms generated. Dr Subrayappa is able to compute the total number denoted by the inscribed symbols on every seal.

Some of the numerals had more than one form. Thus, there were as many as ten different symbols for the numeral 10. Why was this so? This is a question that Dr Subrayappa is yet to answer.

Other areas that he is studying now are the usage, though occasional, of two alternative basic forms or their derivatives to connote the same value on a seal.

"I feel that they had evolved some sort of set theory," he says. He is trying to figure out this mathematical concept too. Were the numbers counted in sets or groups and the total number determined thereafter?



Bronze seals from Moenjodaro

Dr Subrayappa feels that the Harappans — and even later civilisations — might have been able to count all the way up to 90,000 in straight progression. They probably depicted it as 90 independent units of 1,000.

He is attempting to find out through computer analysis whether the animal motifs are related to certain magnitudes of numbers. Archaeologists have not yet been able to say which seals are chronologically older and which are more recent.

The idea that some of the seals could have been meant for maintaining records is also entirely new. The records could have been of normal day-to-day transactions like pottery production, agricultural out-

THE INDUS SEALS

A listing of the basic numerical forms on the Indus seals

Basic Forms	Numerical Value	Remarks
Countable Rod Forms: 1 - II - III - IV	1 to 12	Used in Kharoshthi inscriptions; horizontal form in Brahmi inscriptions
□ or ◇ or X	4	X form used in Kharoshthi inscriptions
△	5	△ used by the Chinese
▲	6	▲ used by the Chinese
↑ or ↑ or 7	7	↑ used by Chinese; ↗ in Brahmi inscriptions
⤒ or ⤓ or ⤔	8	⤒ used in Kharoshthi inscriptions
⤓ or ⤔	9	⤓ used in Chinese oracle-bone forms
⤓ or ⤔ or ⤕ or ⤖ or ⤗ or ⤘	10	⤕ used in Brahmi inscriptions; ⤖ used in Kharoshthi inscriptions; ⤗ used by the Attic Greeks; ⤘ used by the Chinese
U or O	20	U used by the Chinese
⤓ or H	100	⤓ used in Brahmi inscriptions; H used by the Attic Greeks
⤓	1000	⤓ used by the Chinese

put, cattle or even bricks laid and used.

"Are the animal motifs symbolic of the items of account?" wonders Dr Subrayappa. "Were the script forms indicating the numbers inscribed as and when necessary or were they executed in one stroke?" These are questions that he hopes to answer.

Dr Subrayappa has not studied the original seals himself, he has worked from photographs of the seals. His interpretation indicates for the first time that the Harappan culture was far more advanced in the science of numbers than either the Egyptian or the Sumerian civilisations. Until now, we had enough archaeological and literary evidence to prove the mathematical prowess of the latter civilisations, but little information about the mathematical development of the Indus Valley symbols.

Surprisingly enough, Dr Subrayappa has chosen to present his dynamic new interpretation as an 'approach paper' and not in the form of a published book. "That is because I just wanted to generate some discussion on this concept to start with," he explains. "I have already begun interacting with several scholars all over the world on this subject. I might write a book on my interpretation of the seals after I have finished investigating the seals to my satisfaction."

The anthropological and historical implications of Dr Subrayappa's conclusions are endless. Researchers now eagerly await the results of the next series of investigations that he has already begun on the Indus Valley symbols.

Courtesy: Illustrated Weekly of India.

Explorer on the trail of Peruvian pyramids

By John Rogers

for a television series on his life, clearly more interested in balsa-wood rafts than gold.

"I do not expect necessarily that we will find any treasures. That's not what we are looking for," he said.

"But we feel that such an enormous complex has survived intact for so long must contain a lot of clues about the beginning of civilisation in South America."

Heyerdahl has no theory yet about the origins of the ancient pyramid-builders whose rafts washed up on Peru's coast.

But his mind is bubbling with the possibilities.

He rules out links between Tucume's adobe (dried mud) structures and Egypt's 5,000-year-old Pharaonic pyramids but says there is a strong parallel with those of ancient Mesopotamia, now Iraq, which served as both tombs and temples.

"I do not believe that they are linked with ancient Egypt nor do they necessarily have to be linked with ancient Mesopotamia," he said. "But somehow, I believe there is a common root."

In a half-century of exploration, Heyerdahl has returned repeatedly to the theme that oceans unite continents rather than divide them.

"We must stop looking at the oceans as an isolator in archaeology," he said. After rafts were invented, "the ocean

was a conveyor."

Heyerdahl is best known for the Kon-Tiki expedition in 1947, when he crossed the Pacific Ocean in a balsa raft from Peru to a coral island near Tahiti, showing that ancient South Americans could have populated the Pacific islands.

In 1970, he sailed in a papyrus boat, Ra-II, from Morocco to Barbados, to show that ancient Egyptians could have reached the Americas centuries before Christopher Columbus landed in 1492.

He made his latest Peruvian find when he returned to Peru last June as part of his biographical odyssey for television.

"He met archaeologist Walter Alva, now his partner on the planned Tucume excavations.

"He showed me a sensational discovery . . . he had just started to excavate a pyramid at a site called Sipan, where grave robbers had been caught emptying the largest gold treasure found in South America this century."

Alva took over when five per cent of the treasure was probably left. But an estimated 95 per cent "had been sold — probably melted down — to non-scientists," he said. "Still there was an enormous scientific treasure to be saved and it was saved by Alva and his Peruvian colleagues, including two masks of pure gold."

Sipan dated back to the early Mochica period of Peruvian

history, well before the Incas. It meant "that here we had solid archaeological proof of long-distance voyages at least 1,000 years before Columbus," Heyerdahl said.

Alva took him to Tucume. "Unbelievable as it is, in a desert valley next to the village were 26 pyramids never touched by archaeologists or grave robbers," he said.

It was the world's biggest complex of prehistoric adobe structures, covering 220 hectares (550 acres), dating from the first 500 years A.D. and maybe earlier, Heyerdahl said.

The pyramids, 30 to 40 metres (100 to 130 feet) high, probably stayed unexplored for centuries because they looked more like eroded sandstone mountains than man-made structures.

Also, "there are so many archaeological sites in Peru that there is plenty to do for the limited number of archaeologists who work there," Heyerdahl said.

Lack of scientific interest was even stranger because 16th century Spanish historians had described the complex and painted oral history.

According to tradition, the pyramids were ruins of a city started by descendants of King Naymlap, a founder of Peruvian civilisation who reached Peru from the north with his wife and concubines on board a large fleet of balsa rafts.

William Graves, senior editor of National Geographic magazine, which helped fund the project and publishes the first detailed account of the wreck next month, said: "This is the most significant underwater archaeology I have ever seen."

The wreck was first discovered in 1982 by Turkish sponge divers who came upon a pile of ingots beneath 150 feet of water. The boat, 50 feet long and heavily laden with cargo, had sunk just 50 yards of a rocky promontory, towards

the end of the 14th century BC.

It has taken four summers to retrieve the material gathered so far, and Dr Bass estimates that they are still only at the halfway point. The team of

archaeologists working on the project can only remain at that depth for 20 minutes at a time, diving not more than twice a day.

All the objects found will

remain in Turkey and it is hoped that some may be placed on public display at the museum in Bodrum Castle, where they are being painstakingly restored and preserved next year.

Of particular significance are the earliest discovered ingots of tin and glass, and a tiny gold scarab, inscribed with hieroglyphics spelling the name of Egyptian queen, Nefertiti.

The early "Filofax" was almost overlooked as the wood from which it was made had broken into small pieces among the sediment inside a storage jar which had contained pomegranates.

The scribe's tablet pre-dates the previously oldest known example found at Nimrud, Assyria, by six centuries. Its two hinged wooden leaves are recessed on their inner faces, and would have held a thin layer of beeswax on which characters could be scratched with a sharpened stylus. It measures 2.5 by 3.5 inches — convenient for a bronze-age pocketbook.

Although supplies of a yellow sulphide of arsenic used in a wax mixture to provide the best consistency for writing were found in the wreck, the wax in this particular tablet was

As a result, one major mystery remains. Dr Bass said: "They may have been the original bronze-age yuppie, but we still do not know exactly who they were."

They were probably either Mycenaean, Cypriot, or Canaanite, he believes. Handmade objects of each culture which could have been used during the voyage were found scattered around the ship.

Whoever they were, their watery demise is an object lesson to their modern counterparts who also ply the Turkish coast in unruly flotillas of sailing vessels, often with scant regard for possible navigational hazards.

ANDY CAPP



By Smith

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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SPORTS**SPORTS BRIEFS****Best partner**

NEWCASTLE, England, Dec 22. (UPI): Newcastle striker Paul Goddard said this week that his Brazilian strike partner Mirandinha is the best player he has ever played with. "He is quicker than anyone I have ever seen and possesses a helluva shot. He can produce a wicked shot to send the ball dipping and bending in a way that seems to come naturally to South Americans. "He is so quick over five to 10 yards that if you put the ball in behind the opposition he is always going to create problems.

Carole Burton

CAMBRIDGE, England, Dec 22. (UPI): Carole Burton, who coxed Cambridge to victory over Oxford in the 1986 university boat race, is hospital suffering from meningitis. Carole, 22, was described as being in a 'serious' condition although a hospital spokesman said there had been a slight improvement.

Top athletes

SOFIA, Dec 22. (UPI): World champions Hristo Markov (triple jump) and Stefka Kostadinova (high jump) have been voted Bulgarian Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year. The two athletes scooped the votes of 155 journalists in a poll conducted by 'Naroden Sport' newspaper.

Fans charged

SERES, Greece, Dec 22. (AP): Charges were filed yesterday against seven Olympiakos Piraeus fans who allegedly stoned panserrikous supporters and smashed store windows after the two First Division soccer team drew 2-2 Sunday, police said.

Bull triumphs

MIAMI BEACH, Florida, Dec 22. (AP): Unranked Will Bull of the United States defeated fourth-seeded Arne Thoms of West Germany 7-5, 6-3 as three of the top seven seeds in boys 16 play lost in second-round action of the Orange Bowl International Championships.

Cup preparations

GLASGOW, Dec 22. (UPI): Scotland is lining up an eight-match warm-up programme next year to prepare for the qualifying competition of the 1990 World Soccer Cup finals.

Games bid

SAPPORO, Japan, Dec 22. (UPI): The city of Sapporo which hosted the 1972 Winter Olympics announced yesterday plans to bid for the event again in 1998.

O'Neill sidelined

WIMBLEDON, England, Dec 22. (UPI): A Northern Ireland soccer international underwent a two-and-a-half-hour knee operation Sunday night and the injury could force him out of the game.

Player arrested

ANTWERP, Belgium, Dec 22. (UPI): Belgian international soccer star Marc Vanderlinde, who plays for League leader Antwerp, has been arrested on charges connected with the theft of fur coats, a court official said yesterday.

BRIDGE

RESULTS of the game held at the Sheraton Hotel on Friday:
N/S
1. Ignace Meouchi & Mamoudou Sabri
2. Narendra Shah & Khurshed Zuberi
3. Adly Taib & Magdi Medsari
E/W
1. Dr Henryk Szul & Gregory Latala
2. Merchant & Ravi Bhat
3. B.R. Sharma & M. Gajjar.

INTERNATIONAL BOXING CHIEF PRAISES ORGANISERS**South Koreans shine at Asian boxing tourney**

SOUTH KOREAN boxers were back to their winning ways on Monday evening when five more of them moved into the next round of the 13th Asian Boxing Championship at Kuwait's Handball Federation Hall.

The boxers from India, Iraq, and Thailand were not to be left far behind as they claimed three victories each. Pakistan, which had been on a winning spree, lost three bouts on Monday while two went through. Mongolia and Thailand also achieved two victories each.

Some of the boxers who won on Monday moved into the finals while the others qualified for the semifinals. The finals and the semifinals will be held tomorrow as today is a rest day.

Overpowered

Two more of Kuwait's boxers lost on Monday. Nasif Jassam was the first to lose when he was overpowered by Pakistan's Mohammad Latif in a flyweight bout.

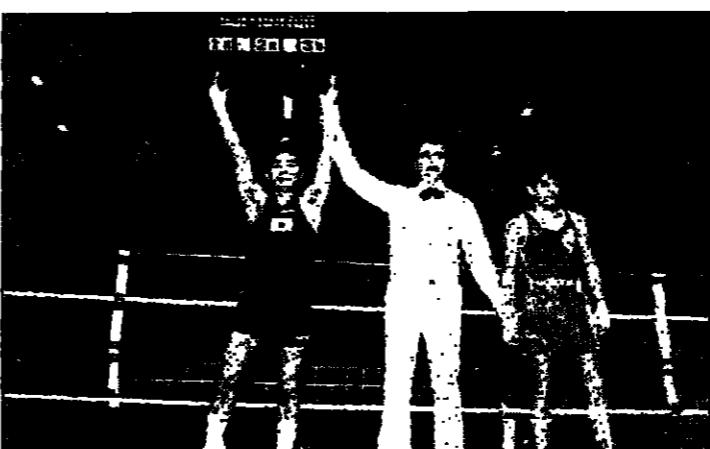
Hussain Al Shattaf found that he was no match for Iraq's Khaled Rahim in the middleweight class and his Kuwaiti trainer asked the fight to be stopped.

In the light-flyweight category two bouts were held. In the first, Shat Sasacol of Thailand beat Saadoun of Iraq on a technical knockout while Kwang Sou of South Korea scored a points victory over Mamoro of Japan.

Flyweight Torsal Bonger of Thailand gave his country a second win when he outpointed Ratna of Nepal. In the same category, Aamer Jawad of Iraq beat Stifani of Indonesia on points and Kwang Kim scored a similar victory over Hamed Halabouni of Syria.



Choudhry (centre): addressing the press conference



A South Korean is declared the winner.



An Iraqi boxer (left) draws blood from his Japanese opponent.

of South Korea against Gopal of India.

Meanwhile, the president of the International Amateur Boxing Federation, Anwar Choudhry, has proposed that Kuwait host an international boxing championship annually to upgrade the level of the sport in this country.

Serious

Choudhry, addressing a press conference at the Holiday Inn late Monday evening, said that Kuwait had good boxers but they required experience through more serious training and fights with top international boxers.

He added that no progress could be achieved without the Kuwaiti boxers taking to the international scene. He cited the example of Cuba, which, being a small country, had achieved a very high standard in the sport.

Choudhry also said that the international federation was ready to support Kuwait and

provide facilities to the Kuwait Boxing Federation to enable it to hold international championships.

The international federational president was full of praise for the Kuwaiti Federation for its excellent organisation of the present Asian event. He added that Kuwait had proved that it was capable of organising similar

international events.

Choudhry particularly praised Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed, the chairman of the Olympic Council of Asia, for his efforts towards the betterment of the sports movement in Asia and

Kuwait.

He thanked the Kuwaiti and Asian sports leaders for their support in his election to the

presidency of the international federation.

Talking about the international federation's preparations for the Seoul Olympics, Choudhry said that the body was trying to find ways to overcome one major obstacle usually faced — objection and criticism of referees, especially during Olympics.

Choudhry said that the federation was trying to modify computers which would help in the refereeing of bouts. He added that the computers were ready for use but would not be employed in Seoul but in the 1992 Olympics. The computers would also be provided by the federation to poor and developing countries.

In the meantime a training session would be held for 44 referees and judges who would be used in the coming Olympics. The course will be held in Seoul in April next year.

Important

The international federation plans to hold a meeting in March as a final rehearsal for the 1988 Olympics. Choudhry said that the meeting would be an important test for the participating boxers, referees, judges and administrators.

Choudhry rejected proposals for the inclusion of professional boxers at the Seoul Olympics. He added that he would never give in to such proposals and could not bear to see an amateur hurt by boxers like Larry Holmes or Spinks.

He also revealed that the federation was, however, studying a proposal to increase the number of rounds in the amateur bouts from three to six. He said that this would only be implemented after a lot of experimentation.

Officiate

Shakoor said he would continue umpiring for as long as the Pakistan cricket board wanted him to officiate. "I love it and the game, and I will continue as long as I can."

The board will make a report on the Shakoor-Gatting row to the English Test and County Cricket Board and the International Cricket Conference.

England left for home this morning after losing the three-Test series 1-0.

Vengsarkar told not to write column

MADRAS, India, Dec 22. (Reuter): Indian cricket captain Dilip Vengsarkar has again been told that he cannot write a newspaper column on the current Test series against West Indies.

Ranbir Singh, secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), said today: "The board has refused Vengsarkar permission to write and has asked him to meet the press before and after the matches."

Earlier this month, the BCCI forbade Vengsarkar to write the syndicated column on pain of fines or suspension.

Letters

Vengsarkar, supported by the entire Indian Test squad, last week sent two letters to the board defending his right to write and pointing out that a column by West Indies skipper Viv Richards was also published in the Indian media.

Singh told reporters after a BCCI meeting today that if Vengsarkar wanted to express his and his team's opinions, he could do so by meeting the press.

"He is bound morally and legally not to write," said Singh. The board had issued a formal notice on December 14 forbidding him to do so, he added, and if the captain did not reply by its next meeting on December 29 it would be assumed that "he has nothing to say in the matter."

Two new buyers bid for Watford

LONDON, Dec 22. (Reuter): Two potential new buyers of English First Division soccer club Watford have already come forward after publisher Robert Maxwell's decision to call off the £2 million (\$3.64 million) deal.

Paul White, a spokesman for club chairman Elton John, would not reveal their identities.

But he said yesterday: "While we take every inquiry at face value, we then face a lot of checking up on their background and financial position before we get down to serious talks."

Rock singer John has instructed his soccer brokers, Hanover Druse Football League Consultancy, to research thoroughly the background of any would-be purchasers.

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Holmertz swims to 200m win

ORLANDO, Fla., Dec 22. (Reuter): Sweden's Anders Holmertz, ranked first in the world in the men's 200-metre freestyle after upsetting world record holder Michael Gross of West Germany at the European Championships, won the event at the US Open swimming meet yesterday.

Record
Holmertz, 19, took gold by a full second over American Matt Cetilinski. The Swede clocked one minute 49.09 seconds while Cetilinski touched in 1:50.10. American Sean Kilian was third in 1:50.57.

Holmertz, second on Sunday night in the 400-metre freestyle with a new Swedish national record of 3:50.03, has already qualified for the 1988 Seoul Olympics in both the 400 and 200-metre freestyle events for Sweden.

"When I beat Gross it was nothing special," Holmertz said. "I thought Gross would swim faster at the European Championships. But it did give me confidence for the future."

China's Hong Qian, 16, continued to be impressive in the women's 100-metre butterfly with a victory in 1:00.05. Qian, ranked fourth in the world in the event, won it at the Pan Pacific Championships last summer in Brisbane, Australia.

In the opening day of the meet Evans broke a nine-year-old world record in 400-metre freestyle with a time of 4:05.45.

Yesterday Evans was untested in the 400-metre individual

medley. Her time of 4:39.75

was over nine seconds better than her closest competitor, American Tami Bruce.

Record

US Olympians Betsy Mitchell and Mary Wayte also won individual events.

Mitchell, the current world record holder in the 200-metre backstroke, won the 100-metre backstroke.

Wayte, Olympic gold medalist in the 200-metre freestyle, broke her own meet record for the event with a time of 1:59.24. Luminita Dobrescu of Romania was second in 2:01.54 and Britain's June Croft was third in 2:02.17.

The match with Verona was very hard, although we won. In general I think I played well considering the trips and matches I had in these last days," Maradona said.

Maradona travelled 35,000 km within a week.

He left Italy a week ago for Argentina's international friendly against West Germany in Buenos Aires after Napoli's 2-1 win over Juventus and flew back on Thursday to prepare for the match against Verona.

"The match with Verona was very hard, although we won. In general I think I played well considering the trips and matches I had in these last days," Maradona said.

Maradona led Argentina to a 1-0 win against the Germans in a rematch of the 1986 World Cup final.

He set up the winning goal for Jorge Burruchaga, just as he did in Mexico in Argentina's 3-2 World Cup triumph.

Earlier this month, the BCCI forbade Vengsarkar to write the syndicated column on pain of fines or suspension.

Letters

Vengsarkar, supported by the entire Indian Test squad, last week sent two letters to the board defending his right to write and pointing out that a column by West Indies skipper Viv Richards was also published in the Indian media.

Singh told reporters after a BCCI meeting today that if Vengsarkar wanted to express his and his team's opinions, he could do so by meeting the press.

"He is bound morally and legally not to write," said Singh. The board had issued a formal notice on December 14 forbidding him to do so, he added, and if the captain did not reply by its next meeting on December 29 it would be assumed that "he has nothing to say in the matter."

Burke's Peirage raps England

LONDON, Dec 22. (Reuter): England cricketers get no credit for their behaviour in Pakistan — at least not from Burke's Peirage, a leading authority on noble manners.

The sportsmen may have returned home from Pakistan today to a £1,000 (\$1,800) bonus from England's cricketing authorities for "picking themselves up," after umpiring rows in Pakistan, but Burke's Peirage thinks that money is part of the problem.

Disrespect

"What's wrong can be summed up in one word — money. We mean no disrespect to our farmers when we use the adjective peasant. It is just that the

amateur still reigns."

A day's play was lost during a Test match in Faisalabad after English captain Mike Gatting had a heated argument with umpire Shakoor Rana who

refused to continue until the English cricket board ordered Gatting to give him a written apology.

English cricket board executive Alan Smith denied that the bonus was awarded to quell a revolt among the players who were backing Gatting, saying: "We have made it (the bonus) as a vote of confidence in the players and a way of thanking them for the way they have picked themselves up after the recent problems."

The sportsmen's behaviour was nevertheless "neither imperial nor cricket," Burke's Peirage said.

Burke's Peirage is the leading director of British nobility.

Highland Fling sails to victory

SYDNEY, Dec 22. (Reuter): Hong Kong yacht Highland Fling sailed to its second win in the Southern Cross Cup today to establish itself as favourite for the grueling run from Sydney to Hobart, the last race in the series.

The series will end on December 26 with the field of 33 international yachts racing from Sydney to Hobart, the last race in the series.

In a strong south-easterly, America's Cup skipper Chris Dickson sailed the 58-foot yacht superbly over a 24-mile course

much success with Valencia, as with Porto and help them end the season in the top four or five in the League."

Madjer, who played for Portugal's Porto when they beat Bayern in the European Cup final last May, will join the West German next July on a three-year contract.